NATION

SC order leaves students of madrassas in limbo

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India becomes biggest exporter of fuel to EU

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India looks to defend title on home soil

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Mahayuti to decide CM post polls: Shah

Shah releases BJP's manifesto ahead of M'rashtra polls, slams MVA's appeasement politics

MUMBAI, 10 NOV

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said the ruling Mahayuti in Maharashtra will retain power with full majority and a decision on who will be the chief minister will be taken by the alliance partners after the state polls.

Talking to reporters here after unveiling the BJP's manifesto for 20 November state assembly polls, Shah expressed confidence that the Mahayuti will win the elections.

All the three alliance partners - BJP, Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Ajit Pawar's NCP - have released their manifestos and after the elections, a committee of ministers from the three parties will be formed to prioritise the assurances given, Shah said.

> **I want to ask Uddhav Thackeray if he can request Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to say two good words for Veer Savarkar**
>
> —Amit Shah, Union Home Minister

"At present, Eknath Shinde is the chief minister. After the elections, all the three alliance partners will decide on the chief minister," the senior BJP leader said.

He said the Shiv Sena and NCP split because Uddhav Thackeray prioritised his son over Eknath Shinde while Sharad Pawar prioritised his daughter over Ajit Pawar.

He rejected the Congress' accusation of BJP's plan to weaken reservations.

Shah said the Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghadi could stoop to any level for the sake of appeasement and vote bank politics.

He further said Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole had agreed to the Ulema Council's demand for Muslim reservations.

Addressing rallies in Raver assembly constituency in Jalgaon and Malkapur seat in Buldhana, Shah pointed out to a recent memorandum submitted by the Ulema Council to the opposition Congress seeking 10 per cent reservation in jobs and education for the Muslim community.

Maharashtra polls will be held on 20 November, while votes will be counted on 23 November. —*PTI*

KEY PROMISES
BJP MANIFESTO
MVA MANIFESTO
ASSEMBLY POLLS '24
MAHARASHTRA
$1 TRILLION ECONOMY BY 2028
• Transform into $1 trillion economy by 2028, with investments in aerospace, AI, fintech, and
ECONOMIC SUPPORT AND WELFARE:
• Rs 2,100 monthly to women, totaling Rs 25,200 annually.
• Loan waiver of up to Rs 15,000 for farmers, with 20% subsidy on MSP
• Free food grains for low-income families under the Akshya Anna Yojana.
HEALTHCARE INITIATIVES:
• Vivekananda Youth Health Card and annual health check-ups for youth.
• Aadhaar-enabled services and dedicated OPDs for senior
EDUCATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP:
• Reimbursement of tuition and examination fees for marginalised students
• Rs 10,000 to students for studies and creation of 25 lakh new jobs.
• Interest-free loans of up to Rs 15 lakh for entrepreneurs.
FIVE GUARANTEES:
• Fulfil 5 guarantees, including conducting caste-based census and removing the 50& cap on reservations.
WOMEN'S WELFARE:
• Mahalaxmi scheme will provide Rs 3,000 per month to women,
• Free bus rides for women across Maharashtra.
FINANCIAL AID FOR FAMILIES:
• Every family will receive Rs 3 lakh annually
FARMERS' SUPPORT:
• Waive farm loans and provide Rs 25 lakh health cover to farmers.
• Additionally, Rs 50,000 will be given to farmers who repay their loans on time.
संकल्प पत्र-2024
महाराष्ट्रनामा

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge along with other leaders releases poll manifesto in Maharashtra, on Sunday **PHOTO: PTI**

MVA's manifesto promises caste census

MUMBAI, 10 NOV

The Opposition MVA on Sunday released its manifesto for the Maharashtra assembly polls, promising free cervical cancer vaccines for girls aged 9 to 16 and and two optional leave days for women employees during menstruation.

The manifesto, titled 'Maharashtranama', also assured a caste-based census, establishment of a separate department for the empowerment of self-help groups, formation of a dedicated ministry for child welfare, and six cooking gas cylinders every year at Rs 500 each to women.

It also promised to frame a 'Nirbhay Maharashtra' policy and enforcement of the Shakti law for the safety of women and children.

The MVA also assured to provide Rs 1 lakh each to girls on attaining the age of 18 years.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge released the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi's (MVA) manifesto for the November 20 state polls at a press conference in Mumbai where NCP (SP) working president Supriya Sule and Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut were also present.

Replying to questions on populist schemes announced by the MVA after criticising the ruling Mahayuti for the same, Kharge said, ''Give us government and we will give you the budget.''

He said that in Karnataka, Rs 52,000 crore has been budgeted for the implementation of guarantees and the budget and expenditure details are available.

''We did not lie. If you are determined to help the poor, you will find a way out,'' he said. —*PTI*

Sanjiv Khanna to take oath as next CJI today

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

Justice Sanjiv Khanna, who has been part of several landmark Supreme Court judgements such as scrapping the electoral bonds scheme and upholding abrogation of Article 370, will be sworn in as the 51st Chief Justice of India on Monday. President Droupadi Murmu will administer the oath of office at Rashtrapati Bhavan in a ceremony scheduled at 10 am. Justice Khanna will succeed Justice DY Chandrachud, who retired on Sunday, and his term will last until 13 May, 2025. Among the notable judgments of Justice Sanjiv Khanna in the Supreme Court is upholding the use of electronic voting machines in elections. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 3

Fresh gun & bomb attacks in Imphal: Manipur Police

IMPHAL, 10 NOV

Armed men from the hills launched a series of gun-and-bomb attacks in parts of Lamlai assembly constituency in Manipur's Imphal East district on Sunday, police said. Security forces — Army, BSF and police — retaliated, resulting in a fierce exchange of fire at Sanasabi, Sabungkhok Khunou, and Thamnapokpi, officials said. Tension remained high in the surrounding villages as farmers were unable to tend to their paddy fields due to the firing from hilltop positions towards the low-lying fields of Sanasabi, they added. To prevent the situation from escalating further, additional forces have been deployed, police said. —*PTI*

Shooter, 4 others in Siddique's murder held from UP

MUMBAI, 10 NOV

Mumbai police on Sunday said they have arrested the shooter and four others in NCP leader Baba Siddique murder case from Uttar Pradesh. The shooter Shivakumar and 4 others were arrested in a joint operation with STF of UP police, an official said. The three are being brought to Mumbai, he said. Siddique was shot dead on 12 October by three assailants outside his son MLA Zeeshan Siddique's office building in Bandra East. He sustained two bullet injuries on his chest and was rushed to the Lilavati hospital in Mumbai, where he passed away. —*PTI*

Violence rocks Assam's Samaguri ahead of bypolls

NAGAON, 10 NOV

Incidents of violence rocked Assam's Samaguri assembly constituency where byelections will be held on 13 November with both the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress alleging that gunshots were fired targeting each other's supporters over the last 24 hours, police said on Sunday. It was also alleged that three journalists who went to cover the violence, which happened on Saturday, were manhandled by Congress supporters. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma slammed Congress for "resorting to violence under cover of darkness" to intimidate BJP workers, stating that no one would be allowed to sabotage or undermine the democratic process. In the vehicle, Goswami and BJP leader Suresh Bora were travelling, although no injuries —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 3

Dalits' 1st temple entry sparks tension in Mandya

MANDYA, 10 NOV

Tension prevailed in a village in Mandya on Sunday after the district authorities made way for the Dalits to enter the temple and worship the deity 'Kalabhairaveshwara' for the first time.

The upper caste people, mostly Vokkaligas, allegedly took away the 'Utsava Murthy', the metallic festival idol of the deity for performing rituals outside the temple in Hanakere village.

Heavy police force has been deployed in Hanakere in view of the prevailing tension.

According to sources, there was an old Kalabhairaveshwara Swamy temple in the village and Dalits were never allowed to enter it.

About three years ago, the old dilapidated structure was demolished and a new temple was built. Recently, the shrine came under the control of the Religious Endowment Department of the state government.

Soon, Dalits decided to enter the temple but the members of the upper caste communities did not agree.

The Dalits complained to the district administration about the discrimination done against them. Subsequently, two peace meetings were conducted but they failed.

On Sunday, the Dalits entered the temple amid police security. The upper caste members who were upset with the development took away the festival idol.

"Let them keep the temple, we will take the deity with us," one of them was heard saying.

Mandya tahsildar Shivakumar Biradar told Salar News, "As leaders appealed about the practice of untouchability, caste discrimination, preventing the entry of Dalits, district administration acted swiftly to their complaint, allowing the dalits to enter the temple as it is a State run temple.

—*Salar News with PTI*

PHOTO: X@NIKU1630/TWITTER

Flights diverted, delayed due to thick fog at KIA

BENGALURU, 10 NOV

Dense fog at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) here led to significant disruptions in flight operations on Sunday morning. As visibility plummeted to between 50 and 100 meters, a total of 15 flights faced delays, and six incoming flights had to be diverted, the KIA officials said.

According to the officials, the low visibility conditions affected flight schedules from around 5:08 am until 7.25am.

The dense fog forced six flights to reroute to nearby airports, with four flights landing in Chennai and two in Hyderabad. Visibility issues at KIA have been a challenge, especially during fog-prone winter season. —*Salar News*

INDIA- CANADA TENSION

'Khalistani terrorist Nijjar's aide Arsh arrested in Canada'

Members of Hindu Sikh Global protest against attack on a Hindu temple in Canada, near Canadian Embassy, in New Delhi **PHOTO: PTI**

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

Khalistani extremist Arshdeep Singh Gill alias Arsh Dalla, who was designated a terrorist by India, is likely to have been arrested in Canada's Ontario province following a shooting incident, sources claimed here on Sunday.

The incident is suspected to have occurred on 28 October in Milton.

The sources claimed that one of those arrested is believed to be Canada-based gangster Arsh Dalla, who is associated with the banned Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) and ran terror modules on behalf of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a terrorist who was killed last year. —*PTI*

Brampton attack: SFJ leader held

Ottawa, 10 Nov

Canadian police have arrested a 35-year-old Brampton resident on charges of assault with a weapon during a violent demonstration at a Hindu temple in the city, authorities said. On 3 November, a protest occurred at the Hindu Sabha Mandir in Brampton. —*PTI*

TRIGGERS MAYHEM

Gunfire rattles Zabarwan forests, disrupts peace in J&K

SRINAGAR, 10 NOV

In the first such incident in the past two decades, terrorists exchanged fire with security forces in the dense forests of the Zabarwan range here on Sunday, forcing residents to flee in panic as additional forces were mobilised to strengthen the cordon.

The encounter in the vicinity of Nishat on the banks of the Dal Lake comes close on the heels of a day-long encounter in the Khanyar locality of downtown Srinagar early this month which left a top Pakistani commander of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) dead.

The encounter in Zabarwan lasted several hours before the guns fell silent but the terrorists managed to flee taking advantage of the thick foliage. However, the search for the fleeing terrorists was continuing when the last reports were received, the officials said.

Security forces personnel during an encounter in Jammu **PHOTO: PTI**

Eyewitnesses told PTI that the forest area resonated with gunshots shortly after a contingent of Army, police and CRPF personnel appeared there and launched a search operation around 9 am.

The forested area has a cluster of over a dozen houses and many residents fled the locality due to panic. This forest area serves the locals in grazing their cattle and also womenfolk bring firewood from the woods to save themselves from the bone-chilling winter of Kashmir.

Soon after the exchange of fire began, additional reinforcements from the Special Operations Group (SOG) of police and the CRPF rushed to the area and placed it under a tight cordon.

The security forces also restricted the movement of civilians in an attempt to prevent any loss of lives. Even media persons, who reached the spot to report the encounter, were kept at a safe distance. —*PTI*

Army JCO killed, 3 soldiers injured in Kishtwar gunfight

Jammu, 10 Nov

A Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) of the Army's special forces laid down his life on Sunday, while three more soldiers were injured in a gunfight with terrorists in a remote forest area in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, officials said. Four Army personnel, including the JCO, were injured in the initial gunfight and evacuated to a hospital, where the condition of three of them was stated to be "critical". JCO later succumbed to injuries. An encounter was underway with the terrorists responsible for killing of two VDGs. "Three or four terrorists are believed to be trapped," the official said.

Driver dies as truck crashes into stationary vehicle

BENGALURU, 10 NOV

A 47-year-old driver died after his truck crashed into a stationary goods vehicle on HSR Layout in City on Sunday morning. Traffic police said that the cause of the incident was the illegally parked goods vehicle on the 19th Main Road. Around 4.30am, the Eicher truck driver, identified as Manjunath from Nelamangala, was allegedly speeding due to which he failed to notice the goods vehicle on the roadside and crashed into it. The HSR Layout traffic police registered a case. —Salar News

Speeding truck knocks down biker near Hennur Bande

BENGALURU, 10 NOV

An unidentified person died after a truck knocked down his motorbike near Hennur Bande in City on Sunday morning. Traffic police told Salar News that efforts are on to identify the deceased. The accident occurred around 3.30am when a speeding truck hit the bike from behind and fled the scene without stopping. Due to the impact, the biker was thrown off his bike and suffered severe injuries, police said. Hennur traffic police registered a case against the truck driver —*Salar News*

Car overturns on Yeshwanthpur flyover, 3 hurt

BENGALURU, 10 NOV

A driver along with two others had a narrow escape after the car they were travelling in overturned on Yeshwanthpur Flyover in City on Sunday morning. The accident took place around 2.30am when the relatives were driving to Tumakuru from Sadashivanagar here, according to High Grounds traffic police. The driver was speeding and lost control of the wheels due to which the car jumped over the divider and overturned on the other side of the road, according to traffic police. "It could have been a major mishap. Luckily, no vehicles were coming from the other side of the road," a traffic officer who inspected the accident spot told Salar News. A few auto-rickshaw drivers stopped their vehicles and helped the driver and the passengers get out of the car. The passengers suffered minor injuries and were sent to a hospital, police said. A case has been registered.
—*Salar News*

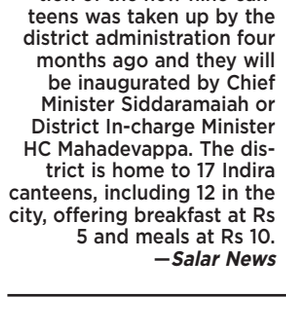


PHOTO: X

9 more Indira canteens to open in Mysuru

MYSURU, 10 NOV

District Administration is set to open nine more Indira canteens, which offer food at an affordable rate, in Mysuru. The new Indira canteens are coming up at Maharani's College for Women on JLB road in the city; New Divisional Commissioner's Office premises at Siddarthanagar, Hootagalli City Municipal Council premises, Bannur; Periyapatna Town Municipal Council office premises; Saragaru; Bogadhi; Rammanahalli and Kadakola Town Panchayats limits in the district. The construction of the new nine canteens was taken up by the district administration four months ago and they will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah or District In-charge Minister HC Mahadevappa. The district is home to 17 Indira canteens, including 12 in the city, offering breakfast at Rs 5 and meals at Rs 10.
—*Salar News*

'Row over bearded college students from J&K resolved'

Hassan college told students to be clean shaven or trim beard

HASSAN, 10 NOV

A row over students from Jammu and Kashmir studying in a government nursing college in Hassan district having long beard has been sorted out amicably, an official of the institute said on Sunday.

The issue came to light when Jammu and Kashmir Students Association wrote to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on the "significant challenges" faced by the students at the college at Holenarasipura in Hassan district.

The issue was amicably solved after the students agreed to comply with the directions of the college management, said Hassan Institute of Medical Sciences director Dr Rajanna.

The 40-odd Kashmiri students in the college facing "significant challenges to restrictive policies concerning their personal appearance" communicated their concerns to Srinagar-based Jammu and Kashmir Students Association.

The students agreed to comply with the directions of college management, said Hassan Institute of Medical Sciences director Rajanna *PHOTO: ANI*

The college administration has reportedly been compelling the Kashmiri students to either trim their beards to a '01' trimmer length or be clean-shaven before they could be allowed to participate in college activities or enter the premises, particularly for clinical duties, the association wrote to the CM.

Students who have beards are being marked absent during clinical duties, impacting their academic records and attendance, it alleged. "The right to personal appearance, including the choice to grow a beard, is fundamental aspect of an individual's freedom and identity," the association said.

"No student should be subjected to such discrimination or forced to compromise their beliefs and practices to access education. Such actions not only infringe upon the rights of these students but also create an atmosphere of fear and exclusion, which is detrimental to the spirit of education and democracy," it added.

However, Rajanna rejected the association's charges. "These students have mistaken the instruction given about the untidy dress and keeping a long beard. During the clinical process they were instructed to keep their dress neat and trim their beards," he said.

Rajanna said when he came to know about the issue, he had discussed with the students, who later agreed to come with a neat dress, to be punctual and to keep the beard trimmed. "The issue is now resolved. The students are happy in their hostels. The faculties and principal have visited their rooms and counselled the students," he said.
—*PTI*

FOR MAHARASHTRA POLLS

Congress looted like anything, says Yediyurappa

HUBBALLI/DHARWAD, 10 NOV

Former chief minister and senior BJP leader BS Yediyurappa on Sunday backed Prime Narendra Modi's allegations that Congress collected money from liquor shops in Karnataka for Maharashtra Assembly polls. Speaking to ANI, Yediyurappa said that the Congress 'looted' money and sent the amount for the Maharashtra assembly elections.

"What PM said is 100 per cent correct. They looted here like anything. They have sent that amount for the Maharashtra election," the former Karnataka Chief Minister said. Prime Minister Modi recently alleged that the Congress government in Karnataka has looted Rs 700 crore from liquor sellers in the state for Maharashtra assembly polls.

While addressing a rally in Maharashtra's Akola, the PM said, "Wherever Congress forms government, that state becomes an ATM for the Congress' royal family. These days, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana have become their ATMs."

"In the name of elections in Maharashtra, they have looted Rs 700 crore from liquor sellers in Karnataka. You can imagine the loot once they win the elections," the Prime Minister added.

Campaigning for Mahayuti candidates contesting assembly polls in the state on Saturday, the PM took a dig at the Congress and said that neither the party nor its allies cared about Baba Saheb Ambedkar's Constitution nor the court nor the sentiments of the country.

"Congress is well aware; the more the country weakens, the more it will strengthen. "Jab Congress mazboot hogi, desh majboor ho jaega". Congress creates a divide between various castes. It never let our castes unite. If our castes do not stay united and stay conflicted with each other, Congress will take advantage of it." said PM Modi
—*Agencies*

BS Yediyurappa *PHOTO: PTI*

'Can there be a bigger ATM for BJP than electoral bond?'

Senior Congress leader Udit Raj criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his recent remarks describing Congress-ruled states as "ATMs" for the party. Udit Raj brought up the BJP's use of electoral bonds and pointed to the demonetization move of 8 November, 2016, as an example of exploiting the public. "The BJP turned the people of this country into its personal ATM on 8 November, 2016. Is there a bigger ATM for the BJP than electoral bonds? Banks are being misused. Loan waivers worth around Rs 25 lakhs are also part of their ATM system. Adani and Ambani are their biggest ATMs. Can they back their statements about Karnataka? Is it appropriate for a PM to make such comments?" Raj said. "We can provide evidence of thousands of scams involving PM, but as long as their government is in power, agencies won't act.
—PTI

COVID SCAM

Action on panel report after Cabinet approval: Siddaramaiah

BENGALURU, 10 NOV

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said the investigation into the Covid-19 pandemic related irregularities will start after the cabinet approval.

He said the sub-committee was examining the report given by the Justice Michael D' Cunha Commission of Inquiry which investigated alleged irregularities in the purchase of equipment and medicines during the Covid 19 pandemic when the BJP was in power.

"It has not come before the cabinet. The sub-committee is examining the report. Once the sub-committee submits its report, we will discuss that in the cabinet," Siddaramaiah told reporters in Hubballi.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao had said on Saturday that the Commission has recommended for the prosecution of Yediyurappa and former minister B Sriramulu in connection with the alleged irregularities in purchase of equipment and medicines during the pandemic.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah *PHOTO: PTI*

- CM said sub-committee was examining the report given by the Justice Michael D' Cunha Commission of Inquiry which investigated alleged irregularities

The Karnataka government on October 11 decided to constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT) and a Cabinet sub-committee to take further action on the D' Cunha commission report. In the "partial" report submitted on August 31 in 11 volumes, the Commission examined the expenditure to the tune of Rs 7,223.64 crore.

Yediyurappa had said there was no question of getting scared by "these threats".

The government was trying to create confusion by digging into the past and this will not serve any purpose, he added.
—*PTI*

BMTC BUS KNOCKS DOWN 2 PEOPLE ON AIRPORT ROAD

BENGALURU 10 NOV

Two people were killed after their two-wheeler was knocked down by an electric bus of Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) near Sadahalli Gate on the Kempegowda International Airport Road in the city.

The deceased are Ramesh, 41, and Nabi, 45, natives of Kalaburagi district and they were residing in Chikkajala. Ramesh had taken up work as a canter driver while Nabi was an auto-rickshaw driver.

The accident took place around 7.30pm on Saturday when the BMTC bus, travelling from Majestic to the airport, knocked down the bike while the duo were riding near a petrol pump. Nabi and Ramesh suffered severe head injuries and died on the way to hospital. —*Salar News*

SAREE RUN

Women take part in 'Saree Run', which celebrates fitness, tradition and women's strength, in Bengaluru on Sunday *PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD*

Use public transport: City top cop to citizens

Traffic police officials inform visitors to Lalbagh about safety measures on World Public Transport Day, in Bengaluru on Sunday. City Police Commissioner B Dayananda and Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) MN Anucheth spread awareness among auto drivers at Majestic *PHOTOS: MOHAMMED ASAD*

BENGALURU, 10 NOV

Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda urged the citizens to take public transport instead of using their vehicles to travel in City.

"The only long-term solution to our traffic problem is public transport. The ones who are making opinions on traffic congestion travel in SUVs and cause congestion. The most vulnerable person is the pedestrian. Another irony of traffic is that every person thinks the other person is responsible for the problems. Everybody thinks rules apply to others," Dayananda said.

The City police chief was speaking at 'World Public Transport Day' event organised at Kempegowda Bus Station to raise awareness regarding the traffic on Sunday. Joint Commissioner of police, traffic, MN Anucheth also attended the event.

As of September, Bengaluru has more than 1 crore registered non-transport (private) vehicles. During the last month, the City saw an increase of around 1,000 motorcycles and scooters, and 409 new cars were added daily. However, City's public transport system doesn't not reach out to all areas. Dayananda said, "We are working together to improve first and last-mile access by collaborating with government agencies. BMRCL has seen increased footfall with the completion of Purple Line, and this trend is expected to continue as more Metro projects are finished. Thanks to the stupendous success of the Shakti scheme, the Karnataka government is finally acknowledging the need for more buses and staff," Dayananda added.
—*Salar News*

RELIVING HISTORY

A walk via Lalbagh like never before

BENGALURU, 10 NOV

Telling historical anecdotes recollecting from memories is a passion for City-based Shyam Kodavarthi, a retired software engineer and Cessna pilot. The 63-year-old's love for heritage and his experience of travelling across India have made him a sought-after guide for heritage walks in State, especially through historical sites. "I am a traveller who writes, often chronicling solo journeys on roads less travelled," he said.

On Sunday, Kodavarthi led a group of over 20 heritage enthusiasts through the verdant lanes of Lalbagh, uncovering a wealth of overlooked stories and architectural gems. Their journey began at a striking lantern-shaped guard house near the West Gate, which Diwan Krishnamurthy, great-grandson of Diwan Purnaiah, originally built. "The British relocated this from Race Course Road during an expansion. When lit, it glows like a lantern," Kodavarthi said.

Bandstand, built by John Cameroon in 1870, was the original Glass House to hold the flower show *PHOTO: SALAR*

Kodavarthi revealed the creation of Lalbagh to the participants from all walks of life. In the 1720s, Mughal emperor Aurangzeb ordered Dilawar Khan to create a garden at Sira, Tumakuru. Inspired by this, Haider Ali established Lalbagh in Bengaluru in 1761.

For Lars Johnson, a visitor from Sweden, the walk was a memorable introduction to both Bengaluru and its history. "It was an excellent heritage walk," she said.

One of the standout moments on the tour was the discovery of a circular structure dating back to 1852. Initially built as an aquarium, it was later converted into Nanjappa Memorial Hall in 1951. Though now abandoned, it serves as a quiet testament to layered past.

Lalbagh is also home to unique trees, including 15 white silk cotton trees and a Baobab imported from Madagascar, which was felled after a lightning strike.

The iconic Band Stand was built in 1870 by then Labagh superintendent James Cameron to display flowers before the construction of the famous glasshouse. The walk ended at a newly restored site where the demolished Krumbiegel Hall once stood, leaving participants, like 75-year-old Padma, nostalgic. "The walk rekindled memories of my beautiful childhood," she said. –*Salar News*

BJP doing politics on Waqf row: Priyank

BENGALURU, 10 NOV

IT & BT Minister Priyank Kharge on Sunday hit back at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over the Waqf Board row and accused the party of indulging in "politics over the issue". Speaking to the media, the Karnataka Minister questioned the BJP over its actions on the Waqf board during their regime.

"Not our government, but even during the BJP government, the notices of Waqf that were issued have all been stopped and asked to withdraw. CM has assured that the agriculture that is being done by farmers will be given protection; such an order has been issued. The BJP is doing politics; during their regime, did they shut the Waqf board?" asked Priyanka.

Following a significant rise in land claims by the Waqf Board, affecting farmers' ancestral lands, temples, government buildings, and even centrally protected monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in several parts of Karnataka has given rise to a political row in the state. This situation has caused severe distress among local farmers and landowners, who are witnessing their generational land rights challenged without proper notification or due process. More than 15,000 acres in Vijayapura District alone have been claimed, including ancestral farmland vital for local farmers' livelihoods. —*Agencies*

Priyank Kharge *PHOTO: PTI*

Russia's 1st Deputy PM to visit India today

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will jointly hold here on 12 November, a key session of the intergovernmental Russian Indian commission on trade, economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation during his "working visit" to India. As part of the visit, he will take part in the plenary session of the Russian Indian Business Forum in Mumbai on 11 November, the Russian Embassy said in a statement on Sunday. The event in Mumbai is aimed at expanding cooperation and ties between the entrepreneurs of the two countries, the statement said. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

M'rashtra polls: Cash, gold worth ₹49 cr seized

MUMBAI, 10 NOV

Police in Nashik have taken action against 17,000 people and seized cash, liquor and arms worth Rs 49 crore since the model code of conduct for the Maharashtra polls came into force, an official said on Sunday. Preventive action was taken against 17,000 people under different acts, including the Maharashtra Prevention of Dangerous Activities (MPDA) and Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA), since the poll code of conduct came into effect on 15 October, Nashik range Inspector General (Special) Dattatray Karale said. Cash to the tune of Rs 6.5 crore, ganja and gutka worth Rs 3 crore, liquor worth Rs 5.5 crore and gold worth Rs 34 crore were seized during this period, he said. Apart from this, the police also caught 52 firearms and 183 other weapons during the drive, the official said, adding that the total seizures are valued at Rs 49 crore. He said 84 platoons of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) have been deployed for the 20 November assembly election. *—PTI*

MLA's son claims he was kidnapped; case filed against 4

PUNE, 10 NOV

Ahead of the Maharashtra assembly elections, Rushiraj Pawar, son of NCP (SP) MLA Ashok Pawar, has claimed that he was kidnapped by a group that demanded Rs 10 crore from him, police reported on Sunday. An FIR was filed on Saturday against three men and a woman related to the case. According to the FIR, the accused persuaded Rushiraj to accompany them for a meeting with individuals supposedly interested in joining the NCP (SP). They took him to a bungalow on their motorbike, where, as per his complaint, he was forced to record an obscene video with an unknown woman. The FIR states the group threatened to circulate the video online unless he paid Rs 10 crore. *—PTI*

Gujarat bypoll: BJP suspends former independent MLA

AHMEDABAD, 10 NOV

BJP has removed former MLA Mavji Patel, who is contesting as an independent in the Vav bypoll in Gujarat, and four others from the primary membership of the party and suspended them.Patel, a director of Banas Bank, is contesting against the BJP's official candidate Swarupji Thakor. The November 13 bypoll was necessitated after Congress MLA Geniben Thakor was elected to the Lok Sabha. Patel, 73, who comes from the dominant Chaudhary community, aims to cause damage by attracting Chaudhary votes that conventionally go to BJP. Apart from Patel, the BJP also suspended four other leaders. *—PTI*

Violence rocks Assam's Samaguri ahead of bypolls

3 scribes were manhandled by Cong supporters; gun shots fired

NAGAON, 10 NOV

Incidents of violence rocked Assam's Samaguri assembly constituency where by-elections will be held on 13 November with both the ruling BJP and the Opposition Congress alleging that gunshots were fired targeting each other's supporters over the last 24 hours, police said on Sunday.

It was also alleged that three journalists who went to cover the violence, which happened on Saturday, were manhandled by Congress supporters.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma slammed Congress for "resorting to violence under cover of darkness" to intimidate BJP workers, stating that no one would be allowed to sabotage or undermine the democratic process.

"We got reports that an incident of firing took place at Mari Puthikhaiti village in Samaguri. BJP workers alleged that a shot was fired from the house of one Congress worker aiming at ruling party MLA Jitu Goswami's vehicle," a police officer said.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma PHOTO: PTI

In the vehicle, Goswami and BJP leader Suresh Bora were travelling, although no one had been injured in the firing, he said, adding that the claims and counter-claims are being verified.

Over the night, at least half a dozen vehicles were smashed by supporters of the ruling and opposition parties at several places in the constituency when they clashed with each other, police said.

In a post on X, the chief minister said, "I strongly condemn the attack on Hon'ble MLA Shri Jitu Goswami in Samaguri by @INCAssam supporters. This is the same Congress that proudly holds up the Constitution for the cameras, yet resorts to violence under cover of darkness to intimidate our karyakartas."

The polling for byelections will take place on 13 November and the votes will be counted on 23 November. *—PTI*

Priyanka on final leg of campaign in Wayanad

Congress candidate Priyanka Gandhi Vadra during a roadshow, at Mananthavady in Wayanad district, Kerala, on Sunday PHOTO: PTI

WAYANAD, 10 NOV

Congress general secretary and UDF candidate Priyanka Gandhi began her final leg of the campaign in the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency by visiting the famous Thirunelli Maha Vishnu temple on Sunday.

The bypoll will be held on 13 November and the campaign ends on Monday.

The Thirunelli Maha Vishnu temple is located on the banks of Papanasini River in which the ashes of Priyanka's father Rajiv Gandhi were immersed in 1991.

Priyanka was heard asking the temple authorities about the history of the ancient temple, known as 'Kashi of the South.'

Later, she proceeded to Edavaka in Mananthavady, where she was accorded a warm reception by Congress-led UDF workers. She interacted with them.

The campaign concludes at a corner meeting at Naikatty, Sulthan Bathery, followed by the reception at places called Chulliyode and Vaduvanchal. *—PTI*

Oppn MPs say Waqf meetings lack quorum

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

- Expressing disappointment at the charge of the Opposition MPs, Pal claimed that there is 'no bigger democrat' than him

Several opposition MPs of the parliamentary committee examining the Waqf (Amendment) Bill have suggested that the assurance they received after meeting Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has not been met and have accused the panel chairman of going ahead with a tour of states despite his meetings lacking even the quorum.

The Pal-led committee is currently on a tour of five states to speak to various stakeholders though Opposition members have boycotted it.

The panel chairman told PTI on Sunday that he is confident of meeting the deadline of submitting the Committee's report by the last day of the first week of the Winter Session, which begins on 25 November, adding that he has already prepared its 200-250 pages.

Opposition members in their letters to Birla have expressed dismay and surprise at the tour, noting that his meeting in Guwahati had only five members, "far less" than even the quorum. They have boycotted the tour.

Those who have written to the Speaker include DMK's A Raja, Congress's Mohammad Jawed and TMC's Kalyan Banerjee, sources said.

They said they received a "ray of hope" that their grievances would be addressed, they added.

Expressing disappointment at the charge of the Opposition MPs, Pal claimed that there is "no bigger democrat" than him as he pointed out that he has repeatedly allowed them to raise as many points and ask as many questions in its meetings as they wanted. *—PTI*

JUSTICE SANJIV KHANNA TO BE SWORN IN AS 51ST CJI TODAY

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

Justice Sanjiv Khanna, who has been part of several landmark Supreme Court judgements such as scrapping the electoral bonds scheme and upholding abrogation of Article 370, will be sworn in as the 51st Chief Justice of India on Monday.

President Droupadi Murmu will administer the oath of office at Rashtrapati Bhavan in a ceremony scheduled at 10 am.

Justice Khanna will succeed Justice DY Chandrachud, who retired on Sunday, and his term will last until 13 May, 2025.

The Centre officially notified Justice Khanna's appointment on 24 October following Chief Justice Chandrachud's recommendation.

Justice Khanna, who served as a Supreme Court judge since January 2019, has been part of several landmark judgements such as upholding the sanctity of EVMs, scrapping the electoral bonds scheme, upholding the abrogation of Article 370 and the grant of interim bail to former Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal.

Among the notable judgments of Justice Sanjiv Khanna in the Supreme Court is upholding the use of electronic voting machines in elections, saying the devices were secure and eliminated booth capturing and bogus voting. *— PTI*

OBC DIVIDE & CONSTITUTION BATTLE

'Ek rahoge toh safe rahoge': PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of Jharkhand Assembly elections, in Bokaro, Jharkhand, on Sunday PHOTO: PTI

BOKARO, 10 NOV

Alleging that Congress-JMM coalition wanted to divide OBCs by pitting sub-castes against each other, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday told an election rally in Jharkhand 'ek rahoge toh safe rahoge' (be united to be safe).

Addressing the rally in Bokaro, Modi claimed that till there was no unity between OBCs, tribals and Dalits, Congress kept forming governments at Centre.

"Beware of Congress-JMM's evil designs and conspiracies. They can go to any extent to grab power. Congress has been an opponent of SC, ST, and OBC unity since Independence. "More than 125 sub-castes are considered OBCs in the Chotanagpur region. Congress-JMM wants to break the OBC unity by pitting sub-castes against each other like Yadav versus Kurmi and Sonar versus Lohar. I warn you, 'ek rahoge toh safe rahoge'," he added.

"Recruitment mafia and paper leak mafia created by the JMM-led coalition will be sent to jail."

Modi attacked Congress, accusing that its 'shahi parivar' (royal family) is hell-bent on breaking the ST-SC-OBC unity. *—PTI*

Kharge slams PM over Naxalism remarks

MUMBAI, 10 NOV

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP for equating a "red book" of the Constitution with "urban Naxalism" and said PM gave a similar copy in 2017 to then President Ram Nath Kovind.

Addressing a press conference here after launching the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi 's (MVA) manifesto for 20 November Maharashtra assembly elections, Kharge also said his party's demand for a caste census is not to divide people, but to understand how various communities are placed at present so that they can get more benefits.

Notably, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis recently alleged that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was trying to seek support from "urban Naxals and anarchists" by holding a "red book."

Kharge said the red handbook was only used for reference and it was not the entire Constitution.

Cong accuses Modi govt of derailing economic growth

Congress on Sunday claimed that India was facing a "demand crisis" due to sustained income stagnation and said the 'double engine' of private investment and mass consumption that powered the UPA's decade of sustained GDP growth has been "derailed." *—PTI*

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge address a press conference, in Nagpur PHOTO: ANI

Jagan threatening IPS officers, will take action: Pawan

GUNTUR, 10 NOV

- Deputy CM's remarks follow recent statements by Reddy, who warned that a future YSRCP government would not spare police officials allegedly harassing opposition members

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on Sunday alleged that YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is "threatening IPS officers" and warned that the state government would take action on its own if any harm befalls the police officials.

The Deputy CM's remarks follow recent statements by Reddy, who warned that a future YSRCP government would not spare police officials allegedly harassing opposition party members.

"The former CM (Jagan) is threatening police officers... I am saying, if anyone gives these threats to officials and if even a fly falls on them or if they suffer so much as a scratch, you (Jagan) will be held responsible. We will take suo motu cognizance of these threats," Kalyan told reporters on the sidelines of a Forest Department event.

The actor-politician stated that no official would be intimidated by Reddy's threats, noting that while the YSRCP chief may be a former CM, he still bears responsibility.

Reminding that Jagan is also an MLA, Kalyan claimed that the NDA government, comprising TDP, BJP, and Janasena, is a "good government" and not an inefficient one.

Additionally, he suggested that "neighbourhood defence committees" should be established in the state similar to those in the Poonch sector in Jammu and Kashmir to protect women. *—PTI*

Pawan Kalyan PHOTO: PTI

IT'S ALL IN THE FAMILY

Families battle their own in M'rashtra

MUMBAI, 10 NOV

Ahead of the 20 November Maharashtra assembly elections, accusations of dynastic politics are rife as many candidates from the same families compete against each other. These polls will feature brothers, cousins, and even father-children's pairs in various constituencies.

A major spotlight is on Baramati, where the high-profile Pawar family sees a clash between debutant Yugendra Pawar from the Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP) and his uncle, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, representing the NCP. Ajit Pawar, a seasoned politician, has previously won the Baramati assembly seat seven times and held the Baramati parliamentary seat once.

NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar with party candidate from Baramati constituency Yugendra Pawar ahead of Maharashtra polls PHOTO: PTI

This is the second intra-family contest here, following the 2024 Lok Sabha election where Ajit's wife, Sunetra Pawar, was defeated by his cousin, Supriya Sule of the NCP (SP).

In Karjat-Jamkhed, Rohit Pawar, a grand-nephew of Sharad Pawar, is contesting as an NCP (SP) candidate against BJP's Ram Shinde.

Meanwhile, the Kannad constituency features a unique battle between estranged couple Harshwardhan Jadhav, an independent candidate, and Sanjana Jadhav, representing Shiv Sena and daughter of BJP leader Raosaheb Danve.

Her brother, Santosh Danve, is running as the BJP candidate in Bhokardan, Jalna. The Deshmukh brothers, Amit and Dhiraj, sons of former Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh, are standing from Latur City and Latur Rural for Congress.

Similarly, Nitesh and Nilesh Rane, sons of BJP MP and former CM Narayan Rane, are competing in Kudal and Kankavli as Shiv Sena and BJP candidates, respectively. *— PTI*

Nitish shameless, stabbed Muslims: Prashant Kishor

RAMGARH, 10 NOV

Prashant Kishor, founder of Jan Suraaj and former political strategist, launched a sharp attack on Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Sunday. Kishor, once a close associate of Kumar, criticized him as "shameless" and accused him of betraying the trust of Muslims by joining hands with the BJP.

Kishor's comments came in response to questions about Kumar's outreach efforts to the minority community during the campaign for four assembly by-polls. Kishor highlighted how Kumar, after receiving significant support from Muslims in the 2015 elections, realigned with the BJP in 2017, a move he described as "stabbing them in the back."

Kishor, who was expelled from the JD(U) after disagreements with Kumar over the CAA, also accused the Chief Minister of supporting laws that threatened Muslim rights. He pointed out that despite Muslims supporting Kumar when he rejoined the Mahagathbandhan, Kumar eventually returned to the BJP-led alliance. He noted that JD(U) leaders are now part of the Union cabinet, which introduced the controversial Wakf bill.

Responding to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's provocative rhetoric, Kishor said it was an old BJP tactic to stir insecurity among Hindus for electoral gain.

He urged the BJP to address the real issues, such as the lack of factories established in Bihar during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tenure. *— PTI*

PRD jawan beaten to death with iron rod in UP

GORAKHPUR, 10 NOV

A 58-year-old Prantiya Raksha Dal (PRD) jawan was beaten to death with an iron road while on duty in Kushinagar district of Uttar Pradesh, police said on Sunday. The crime took place on Saturday night within 100 metres from Chitoni police outpost. The victim has been identified as Ramakant Tiwari. Police said the attacker, Vipin Verma, who suffers from a mental illness, picked up an argument with Tiwari. Later, in a rage, he hit Tiwari on his head with an iron rod multiple times. Police arrested Verma from the spot and sent Tiwari's body for post-mortem. Tiwari, who was from Kardah Tiwari Tola, was stationed at Chitoni Bazaar with police constable Anand Tiwari and another PRD jawan. *—PTI*

PHOTO: FREEPIX

Scrap dealer, wife and son killed in their house in UP

BIJNOR, 10 NOV

A 55-year-old scrap dealer, his wife and their son were found murdered inside their house in Bijnor on Sunday, police said. The blood-soaked bodies of Mansoor alias Bhura, his wife Ubaida, 50, and son Yaquoob, 19, were discovered by the scrap dealer's mother. Superintendent of Police Abhishek Jha said Bhura's mother lived near his Khalifa colony residence. On Sunday, the woman came to her son's place but nobody answered the door. When she peeked inside and saw the bodies, she informed the police. Jha said a screwdriver was found near the bodies and that it prima facie appears to be the murder weapon. According to police, the couple had five children and one of their sons, Zahur, is a history-sheeter. Police officials said the bodies have been sent for post-mortem examination and separate teams formed to work the case. *—PTI*

Body found burnt, stuffed in gunny bag in Bihar

NAWADA, 10 NOV

The body of a person, burnt and stuffed in a gunny bag, along with a partially burnt motorcycle was found in a village in Bihar's Nawada district, police said on Sunday.The body and the motorcycle were found near Shiswa Mode in Kharidi Bigha village. "Prima facie, it appears that the person was first killed and then the body was stuffed into the gunny bag and brought to the village on the motorcycle," the statement said."- Forensic experts have reached the spot and are collecting evidence. The matter will be further investigated," the police said. *—PTI*

Seven acquitted in 2017 Thane assault case

THANE, 10 NOV

Seven persons were acquitted in a 2017 assault case by a Thane sessions court citing insufficient evidence to link them to the incident. Sadruddin Asif Kazi, 32, Irfan Ibrahim Shaikh, 50, Shoeb Mehboob Shaikh, 30, Rameez Irfan Shaikh, 28, Sufiyan Mehboob Shaikh, 27, Azharuddin Asif Kazi, 34 and Yusuf Ibrahim Shaikh, 43 were accused of attempt to murder, rioting and unlawful assembly in connection with the incident that took place in Rabodi on 15 December, 2017.The seven were accused of assaulting delivery boy Avesh Shaikh over the sharing of a CCTV footage on a WhatsApp group, which they claimed was defamatory.Additional Sessions Judge Amit M Shete acquitted them citing lack of sufficient evidence in his order of 4 November, details of which were made available on Sunday. The evidence was "not strong or clinching", the order stated. *—PTI*

SC order leaves students of madrassas in limbo

Demand for accommodating 25k students in varsity

LUCKNOW, 10 NOV

After the Supreme Court declared higher education degrees awarded by the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Board unconstitutional, there is a demand to accommodate the about 25,000 students who are currently pursing these courses in a recognised university.

The state government has also said it will find a way out after considering all the legal aspects of this matter.

In an order on 5 November, the Supreme Court declared the Kamil and Fazil degrees – equivalent to graduation and post-graduation degrees – awarded by the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Board Board unconstitutional, saying it was in conflict with the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act.

Zaman Khan, the general secretary of the Teachers Association Madaris Arabia Uttar Pradesh, said the court's decision has created a difficult situation for the thousands of current students as the board will not be able to conduct exams for these courses now.

"The order of the Supreme Court is supreme. But the government must find some way to deal with the situation that has arisen, so that the future of the students studying in the Kamil and Fazil courses of the Madrasa Board does not remain dark" he said on Sunday.

When asked whether the students studying in the Madrasa Board's Kamil and Fazil courses will be accommodated in any other university, Minority Welfare Minister Om Prakash Rajbhar said the government would definitely find a way out after "studying the SC order and discussing its various legal aspects".

Madrasa Board Registrar RP Singh said about 25,000 students were currently studying the Kamil and Fazil courses run by the board, and whatever decision the government takes will be followed.

Madrasa Board member Qamar Ali said The Madrasa Board had proposed to the government to accommodate the students of its Kamil and Fazil courses in the Lucknow-based Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Urdu-Arabic-Persian University, but no decision was taken on it, he said.

It is not clear from the SC order that from when these degrees will be considered unconstitutional, but the government should take steps to affiliate these students with a UGC-recognised university, Ali said. *—PTI*

Supreme Court declared higher education degrees awarded by the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Board unconstitutional PHOTO: PTI

GROWING THREAT

With the recovery of four more drones, over 200 Pakistan-based rouge drones have been seized along International Border in 2024 PHOTO: ANI

Drone seizures at Pak border doubles

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

Drone seizures along the International Border in Punjab have doubled to 200 as Pakistani syndicates continue to push narcotics and weapons to India, the BSF said.

The force had seized a total of 107 drones at the Punjab border in 2023. With the latest recovery of four more drones, over 200 Pakistan-based rouge drones have been seized along this border in 2024, the BSF said in a statement issued on Saturday.

The BSF said the almost doubled drones seizure this year was a "significant landmark" and "remarkable milestone" that "reflects the force's enhanced anti-drone strategies and the deployment of advanced technical counter-measures along the border."

The BSF said that its troops have implemented "increasingly accurate" anti-drone drills, resulting in a significant setback for Pakistani narcotic syndicates attempting to push in drugs and weapons into the Indian territory, with an objective to "destabilise" it by inducing drug addiction in the young generation and "disintegrating" social harmony. *—PTI*

Can't transfer case over bias claim: HC

MUMBAI, 10 NOV

The Bombay High Court has said that transfer of proceedings (ToP) from a judicial officer cannot be done on mere allegation by one party, and dismissed a petition of the Lilavati Hospital's trust founder alleging bias against the Charity Commissioner.

A single bench of Justice Sharmila Deshmukh last month refused to transfer the proceedings pertaining to a dispute between the trustees from the Charity Commissioner to any other judicial officer, noting that there was no reasonable apprehension of bias or prejudice.

The HC said passing of an adverse order cannot be the foundation for seeking transfer of proceedings. "It is necessary to ensure for securing the ends of justice that a mere allegation is differentiated from an apprehension and what is required is a reasonable apprehension. An absence of congenial atmosphere cannot be a ground for transfer," it said.

PHOTO: PTI

The court dismissed the petition filed by the Lilavati Kirtilal Mehta Medical Trust founder Charu Mehta and permanent trustees Rajesh Mehta and Prashant Mehta, seeking transfer of all proceedings pertaining to the trust from the Charity Commissioner to any other judicial officer while alleging bias.

The petitioners are embroiled in a dispute with the other trustees over control of the trust and the Lilavati Hospital. "In my view the apprehension of the petitioners lacks foundation," the judge said. *—PTI*

J&K RELAXES AGE LIMIT FOR ENTRANCE EXAMS

SRINAGAR, 10 NOV

The Jammu and Kashmir government has relaxed the upper age limit from 30 to 35 years for open merit candidates appearing for combined competitive exams of the Union Territory.

The upper age limit for reserved category candidates has been set at 37 years while for persons with physical disability, it is 38 years, according to the order issued on Saturday. With this measure, the ruling National Conference said it has fulfilled another election promise.

"As promised in our Manifesto, the JKNC government prescribes revised upper age limit for Jammu & Kashmir Combined Competitive Examination. We wish all the candidates good luck with their preparations!" the party posted on X.

—PTI

TOUGH BREATH

Vehicles ply on Chandigarh Highway, in Patiala, Punjab. Chandigarh recorded an Air Quality Index of 342 at 10am on Sunday PHOTO: PTI

'Poor' air continues in Punjab, Haryana

CHANDIGARH, 10 NOV

The air quality in many parts of Punjab and Haryana remained "poor" on Sunday, while it was "very poor" in Chandigarh.

Chandigarh recorded an Air Quality Index of 342 at 10 am, according to the Central Pollution Control Board's Sameer App, which provides hourly updates.

Among other places in Haryana, the AQI at Kaithal was 284, Charkhi Ddari (280), Bahadurgarh (278), Panchkula (270), Gurugram (240), Yamunanagar (231), Kurukshetra (221), Rohtak (202), Sonipat (202), Bhiwani (198), Rohtak (195), Panipat (184) and Ambala (148).

In Punjab, the AQI was registered at 268 in Mandi Gobindgarh, 246 in Amritsar, 220 in Ludhiana, 206 in Patiala, 202 in Rupnagar, 196 in Jalandhar, 175 in Bathinda and 163 in Khanna.

On Saturday, 237 farm fires were reported in Punjab, taking the total count to 6,266. The state witnessed a 70 percent dip in farm fires between September 15 and November 9 compared to corresponding period last year.

Stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana is often blamed for the rise in air pollution in Delhi. *—PTI*

Odisha to launch NEP 2020 this academic year

BHUBANESWAR, 10 NOV

The Odisha government will implement the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, in all state-run universities and affiliated colleges from the current academic year. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi took this decision as part of many reforms in the state's education system, a government statement said.

The NEP will replace regular three-year undergraduate programmes with four-year courses. A student can earn a certificate, diploma, degree and degree-with-honours after the completion of each year, the government said.

The state government has also developed a credit framework on the basis of guidelines set by the University Grants Commission (UGC), under which, the students can involve themselves in skill development, internship, community service and extra-curricular activities, NCC and NSS to earn credits, the statement said.

It will help students to choose their subjects on their own and complete their degree course within seven years with the option of multiple entries and exits from their institution, it said.

The government has also taken steps to make the higher education system more qualitative, autonomous and inclusive as per the NEP 2020. *—PTI*

'Cuttack cops turn away rape survivor'

BHUBANESWAR, 10 NOV

The Congress alleged that three police stations in Cuttack refused to file the complaint of a 19-year-old college student who survived multiple gang rapes.

Congress's Cuttack-Barabati MLA Sofia Firdous demanded an investigation into the police making the woman go from one police station to another to lodge the complaint.

The woman first went to the Puri Ghat police station, then to Sadar police station and then to Barang police station before the FIR was lodged by the Badambadi police, she said.

The woman said her boyfriend used footage of her intimate moments with him to blackmail and rape her along with his friends multiple times. The complaint was lodged on November 4. Police have arrested six people, including the woman's boyfriend, for gangraping her multiple times and filming the acts.

PHOTO: PTI

Firdous met DGP YB Khurania on Saturday over the incident and submitted a memorandum. "When the victim went to lodge an FIR against the accused persons, three police stations in Cuttack refused to register it," she said. *—PTI*

National-level shot-put player found dead

BHOPAL, 10 NOV

Amit Verma, a national level shot-put player, was found dead in his apartment in Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal on Sunday, an official said.

Verma's friends reached his house after he did not respond to their calls in the morning, TT Nagar police station in-charge Sunil Singh Bhadoria told PTI.

The friends broke open the door when the 22-year-old athlete did not answer the doorbell. They found his body inside the apartment, the official said. Bhadoria said no suicide note was found in the house. At this stage, police cannot say if it is suspicious, according to the official. The reason for Verma's death can be ascertained only after post-mortem, he said. *—PTI*

INFECTIOUS DISEASES CAUSED 24% DELHI DEATHS

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

A Delhi government report has attributed approximately 24 per cent of the nearly 89,000 deaths registered in the national capital in 2023 to infectious and parasitic diseases like cholera, diarrhoea, tuberculosis and hepatitis B, among others.

The Medical Certification of Cause of Deaths (MCCD) Report 2023, issued by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics of Delhi government, said around 21,000 people died due to infectious and parasitic diseases out of total 88,628 institutional deaths.

PHOTO: PTI

The number of institutional deaths due to cancer and related diseases were recorded at 6,054 during 2023, which was almost 12 percent more than 5,409 registered in 2022.

The maximum number of institutional deaths among the infants were due to slow foetal growth, foetal malnutrition and immaturity (1,517), followed by pneumonia (1,373), septicaemia (1,109), and hypoxia, birth asphyxia and other respiratory conditions (704).

Age-wise, the maximum number of institutional deaths was reported in those aged around 45-64 years.

A total 28,611 (32.28 per cent) men and women died in this category in 2023, followed by 26,096 (29.44 per cent) people aged 65 years and above, added the report. *—PTI*

CAREER OF 400 FILMS

Veteran Tamil actor 'Delhi' Ganesh dies

CHENNAI, 10 NOV

Popular Tamil actor "Delhi" Ganesh, who has acted in over 400 films, passed away late Saturday night at his residence in the state capital following a brief illness, his family said. He was 80 years old.

The actor's son Maha Delhi Ganesh said his father had age-related ailments and that he was under treatment. "Last night when we tried to give him a tablet, he did not respond. A doctor confirmed that he was dead," he said. Another family member said Ganesh died in his sleep at his Ramapuram residence.

In a statement, the family said Delhi Ganesh passed away at 11 pm on 9 November. Film celebrities condoled his death. Chief Minister MK Stalin condoled Ganesh's demise and said it was a "great loss" to the Tamil cinema industry.

Since he had lived in Delhi for a long time, he got the name 'Delhi' Ganesh PHOTO: X

A native of Tirunelveli, Ganesh's acting career began in the 1960's when he performed small roles in dramas in Delhi, where he had served the IAF for a decade in a civilian post.

Later, when he shifted to Chennai after resigning his IAF job, he joined actor "Kathadi" Ramamoorthy's troupe and acted in dramas including "Dowry Kalyanam".

When legendary director K Balachander made a film (1977) based on the play "Pattinaprevasam", Ganesh got his first opportunity in the tinsel world and he reprised his role in the movie.

There was no looking back since. Ganesh had been active in webseries as well.

He was a recipient of Tamil Nadu government's Kalaimamani award. Since he had lived in Delhi for a long time, he got name "Delhi" Ganesh. *—PTI*

Offer millet to Goddess Lakshmi: Odisha CM

BHUBANESWAR, 10 NOV

The Bhubaneswar, 10 Nov Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Sunday appealed to Odia women to offer millet grains to Goddess Lakshmi on the occasion of the upcoming 'Manabasa Gurubara' festival.

'Manabasa Gurubara', a festival of Goddess Mahalaxmi is celebrated on every Thursday of the Odia month of 'Margasira' (November-December). The people usually offer foodgrains including rice to the Goddess of wealth on this occasion.

Majhi appealed to Odia women to offer millet or millet-made dishes to the Goddess on 'Manabasa Gurubara' while inaugurating the two-day long International Symposium on Shree Anna (millet) & Forgotten Foods (ISSFF) here. This move will go a long way in the promotion of millet, he said.

The chief minister said the state government is committed to develop Odisha as the millet hub of India. The state has made a provision of Rs 649 crore in this year's budget for the promotion of millet, he stated.

Millet cultivation, which was started in undivided Koraput district of Odisha, has turned out to be a revolution across the country and spread to 177 out of 314 blocks in the state.

The state government is providing necessary support to farmers to increase the production of millet, he said.

—PTI

AEROPONICS SAFFRON GROWTH

Anil Jaiswal, a farmer in Indore, has successfully grown saffron indoors using aeroponics, a soil-free method. Inspired by Kashmir's saffron fields, he invested Rs 6.5 lakh in the project, aiming to sell the spice for Rs 5-8 lakh per kilogram
PHOTO: PTI

COP29: India pushes for climate finance & liability

As world leaders and climate negotiators converge on Baku for COP29, beginning Monday, India is set to bring renewed focus to the urgent need for climate finance, accountability, and protection for vulnerable communities.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not attend the conference, and Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav may also be absent, with Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Kirti Vardhan Singh leading the 19-member delegation instead.

India's national statement is scheduled for 18-19 November.

India's key priorities at the conference are likely to focus on ensuring accountability of developed nations on climate finance, strengthening resilience for vulnerable communities, and achieving an equitable energy transition, experts anticipate.

Dr. Arunabha Ghosh, CEO of the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), emphasised that COP29 must go beyond promises, pushing developed nations to accelerate their paths to net zero and meet their financial commitments.

"The climate COPs are about raising ambition, enabling action, and, most importantly, holding everyone accountable. While COP28 resulted in many promises, it let developed countries off the hook. COP29 must be about accountability," said Ghosh.

"The largest historical emitters must move faster and raise their ambition. Climate finance should be consistent, convenient, catalytic, and credible, and COP29 must ensure it delivers real resources and capacity to protect the most vulnerable."

This year's negotiations are anticipated to tackle the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) for climate finance, a critical benchmark that could reach trillions of dollars annually, a figure many developing nations insist is essential to combat climate change effectively.

India's national statement is scheduled for 18-19 November ***PHOTO: PTI***

- The release of the Global Carbon Budget on 13 November will provide a detailed assessment of current emission trends and the global trajectory toward meeting the Paris Agreement targets

Ali Mohamed, Kenya's Climate Change Envoy, reinforced the urgency for a "Finance COP" that prioritises financing without deepening debt burdens for nations already struggling to adapt to climate impacts.

"For Africa, it is important that the final goal agreed in Baku should not worsen our debt situation," Mohamed said. "The Framework on Global Climate Resilience needs to translate into real actions that support agriculture, water, health, biodiversity, infrastructure, and human settlements."

Dr. Frances Colan, Senior Director for International Climate Policy at the Center for American Progress, highlighted the conference's importance following the re-election of Donald Trump in the US, who is anticipated to adopt policies favouring oil and gas expansion.

In a departure from past conferences, India will not host a pavilion at COP29.

This absence also comes as India balances its role as a developing nation with rising energy demands and a focus on economic growth, particularly as the world looks to emerging economies for leadership in reducing emissions.

The release of the Global Carbon Budget on 13 November will provide a detailed assessment of current emission trends and the global trajectory toward meeting the Paris Agreement targets.

Linda Kalcher, Executive Director of Strategic Perspectives, underscored that the EU must step up its efforts in response to shifting US climate policies.

"The EU is one of the most reliable partners on climate finance for developing countries, but it cannot hide from the moment," Kalcher noted.

Li Shuo, Director of China Climate Hub at the Asia Society Policy Institute, described COP29 as a test of multilateralism.

"I'm not worried about whether multilateralism will prevail. I know it will," said Li Shuo. "But in light of the US election outcome, China and the EU will have to take a leadership role. Financial commitments and action on loss and damage are critical to keeping the global economy afloat."

India's approach at COP29, while moderate in terms of attendance and scale, is grounded in a commitment to pragmatic climate action, focusing on accountability, fair financing, and incremental goals for its developing economy.

India's COP29 strategy is expected to challenge developed nations on the gaps in fulfilling climate pledges and drive conversations toward more transparent, reliable climate finance. *—PTI*

SALAR سالار بنگلور

AI dominance inevitable? An expert says no

Anyone following the rhetoric around artificial intelligence in recent years has heard one version or another of the claim that AI is inevitable. Common themes are that AI is already here, it is indispensable, and people who are bearish on it harm themselves.

In the business world, AI advocates tell companies and workers that they will fall behind if they fail to integrate generative AI into their operations. In the sciences, AI advocates promise that AI will aid in curing hitherto intractable diseases.

In higher education, AI promoters admonish teachers that students must learn how to use AI or risk becoming uncompetitive when the time comes to find a job.

And, in national security, AI's champions say that either the nation invests heavily in AI weaponry, or it will be at a disadvantage vis-à-vis the Chinese and the Russians, who are already doing so.

In the past few years, my colleagues and I at UMass Boston's Applied Ethics Center have been studying the ethical questions raised by the widespread adoption of AI, and I believe the inevitability argument is misleading.

History and hindsight

In fact, this claim is the most recent version of a deterministic view of technological development. It's the belief that innovations are unstoppable once people start working on them. In other words, some genies don't go back in their bottles. The best you can do is harness them to your good purposes.

This deterministic approach to tech has a long history. It's been applied to the influence of the printing press, as well as to the rise of automobiles and the infrastructure they require, among other developments.

AI in the field(s)

Consider the contention that businesses can't afford to stay out of the AI game. In fact, the case has yet to be made that AI is delivering significant productivity gains to the firms that use it. A report in The Economist in July 2024 suggests that so far, the technology has had almost no economic impact.

AI's role in higher education is also still very much an open question. Though universities have, in the past two years, invested heavily in AI-related initiatives, evidence suggests they may have jumped the gun.

The technology can serve as an interesting pedagogical tool. For example, creating a Plato chatbot that lets students have a text conversation with a bot posing as Plato is a cool gimmick.

In the sciences and in medicine, the use of AI seems promising. Its role in understanding the structure of proteins, for example, will likely be significant for curing diseases. The technology is also transforming medical imaging and has been helpful in accelerating the drug discovery process.

In national security, the argument for investing in AI development is compelling. Since the stakes can be high, the argument that if the Chinese and the Russians are developing AI-driven autonomous weapons, the United States can't afford to fall behind, has real purchase.

One step at a time

Surveying the potential significance and risks of AI in these different domains merits some skepticism about the technology. I believe that AI should be adopted piecemeal and with a nuanced approach rather than subject to sweeping claims of inevitability. In developing this careful take, there are two things to keep in mind:

-First, companies and entrepreneurs working on artificial intelligence have an obvious interest in the technology being perceived as inevitable and necessary, since they make a living from its adoption. It's important to pay attention to who is making claims of inevitability, and why.

-Second, it's worth taking a lesson from recent history. Over the past 15 years, smartphones and the social media apps that run on them came to be seen as a fact of life – a technology as transformative as it is inevitable. Then data started emerging about the mental health harms they cause teens, especially young girls. School districts across the United States started to ban phones to protect the attention spans and mental health of their students. And some people have reverted to using flip phones as a quality of life change to avoid smartphones.

After a long experiment with the mental health of kids, facilitated by claims of technological determinism, Americans changed course. What seemed fixed turned out to be alterable. There is still time to avoid repeating the same mistake with artificial intelligence, which potentially could have larger consequences for society. *—PTI*

In national security, AI's champions say that either nation invests heavily in AI weaponry, or it will be at a disadvantage vis-à-vis the Chinese and the Russians, who are already doing so ***PHOTO: PIXABAY***

LETTERS write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

Will Trump's plan to kill offshore wind in US succeed?

Opponents of offshore wind energy projects expect President-elect Donald Trump to kill an industry he has vowed to end on the first day he returns to the White House.

But it might not be that easy.

Many of the largest offshore wind companies put a brave face on the election results, pledging to work with Trump and Congress to build power projects and ignoring the incoming president's oft-stated hostility to them.

In campaign appearances, Trump railed against offshore wind and promised to sign an executive order to block such projects.

"We are going to make sure that that ends on Day 1," Trump said in a May speech. "I'm going to write it out in an executive order. It's going to end on Day 1."

"They destroy everything, they're horrible, the most expensive energy there is," Trump said. "They ruin the environment, they kill the birds, they kill the whales."

Numerous federal and state scientific agencies say there is no evidence linking offshore wind preparation to a spate of whale deaths along the US East Coast in recent years. Turbines have been known to kill shorebirds, but the industry and regulators say there are policies to mitigate harm to the environment.

Trump has railed against offshore wind turbines spoiling the view from a golf course he owns in Scotland. But numerous environmental groups say the real reason he opposes offshore wind is his support for the fossil fuel industry.

There is almost 65 gigawatts of offshore wind capacity under development in the US, enough to power more than 26 million homes, and some turbines are already spinning in several states, according to the American Clean Power Association.

Currently operating projects include the Block Island Wind Farm in Rhode Island, the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind pilot project and the South Fork Wind Farm about 35 miles (56 kilometers) east of Montauk Point on New York's Long Island.

Trump is unlikely to end those projects but might have more leverage over ones still in the planning stage, those in the debate say.

Stern, who leads the New Jersey anti-offshore wind group Save LBI, said Trump also could issue executive orders prohibiting further offshore leases and rescinding approval for ones already approved while pushing Congress to amend federal laws granting more protection for marine mammals.

President-elect Donald Trump has railed against offshore wind turbines spoiling the view from a golf course he owns in Scotland ***PHOTO: PTI***

The president-elect also can appoint leaders of agencies involved in offshore wind regulation who would be hostile to it or less supportive.

Opponents of offshore wind, many of them Republicans, were giddy following the election, saying they fully expect Trump to put an end to the industry.

"I believe this is a tipping point for the offshore wind industry in America," said Robin Shaffer, president of Protect Our Coast NJ, one of the most vocal groups opposing offshore wind on the East Coast. "They have been given a glidepath by Democrat-run administrations at the federal and state level for many years. For this industry, (Tuesday's) results will bring headwinds far greater than they have faced previously."

But Tina Zappile, director of the Hughes Center for Public Policy at New Jersey's Stockton University, noted that in 2018, Trump Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke voiced strong support for offshore wind. And even though the president-elect has bashed the technology, she predicted he won't just make it go away.

"Offshore wind might appear to be on the chopping block — Trump's explicitly said this was something he'd fix on the first day — but when the economics of offshore wind are in alignment with his overall strategies of returning manufacturing to America and becoming energy-independent, his administration is likely to back away slowly from this claim," she said in an interview. "Offshore wind may be temporarily hampered, but its long-term prospects in the US are unlikely to be hurt."

Commercial fishermen in Maine said they hope the Trump administration will undo policies designed to help build and approve offshore wind projects, saying regulators attempted to "future-proof" the industry against political change. Jerry Leeman, CEO of the New England Fishermen's Stewardship Association, called on Trump to reverse a commitment to deploy 30 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2030.

The offshore wind industry is taking an optimistic stance, pledging to work with Trump his political allies. National and New Jersey wind industry groups, and several offshore wind developers including Atlantic Shores and Denmark-based Orsted, issued similarly worded statements highlighting terms likely to appeal to Republicans including job creation, economic development and national security.

"By combining the strengths of all domestic energy resources, the Trump administration can advance an economy that is dynamic, secure, and clean," Jason Grumet, CEO of the American Clean Power Association, said in a statement. "We are committed to working with the Trump-Vance administration and the new Congress to continue this great American success story."

But few Republicans were in a welcoming mood following the election. New Jersey Assemblyman Paul Kanitra listed the major offshore wind companies in a Facebook post, saying, "It's time to pack your bags and get the hell away from the Jersey Shore, our marine life, fishing industry and beautiful beaches."

The stock prices of European offshore wind companies, many of which are planning or building projects on the US East Coast, plunged amid fears the new administration would seek to slow or end such projects. Orsted closed down nearly 14% on Wednesday and was down 11 per cent over the past five days. Turbine manufacturer Vestas Wind Systems was down nearly 24 per cent over that same period.

Rep. Jeff Van Drew, a New Jersey Republican, hosted Trump at a rally earlier this year at which Trump again vowed to kill offshore wind.

"We are currently working out the specifics of what that will look like once he takes office again this January," VanDrew said. "President Trump is a good friend of New Jersey, and he understands the devastating impact these projects will have. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Biden invites Trump to White House on 13 Nov

WASHINGTON, 10 NOV

Outgoing US President Joe Biden has invited his successor President-elect Donald Trump for a meeting at the White House on 13 November, which would formally begin the presidential transition. "At President Biden's invitation, President Biden and President-elect Trump will meet in the Oval Office on Wednesday at 11.00am," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement. The meeting between the outgoing president and the incoming one is ceremonial and is seeped into decades old tradition. The president-elect is also given a tour of the White House.

It involves a meeting between the First Lady and the incoming First Lady. This is only the second time in American history that a president is re-elected after a gap of four years. *—PTI*

Taliban will attend UN conference for 1st time

KABUL, 10 NOV

The Taliban will attend a UN climate conference for the first time since their takeover of Afghanistan in 2021, the country's national environment agency said Sunday. The conference, known as COP29, begins Monday in Azerbaijan and is one of the most important multilateral talks to include the Taliban, who do not have official recognition as the legitimate rulers of Afghanistan. The National Environmental Protection Agency posted on social media platform X that a technical delegation had gone to Baku to participate. Matiul Haq Khalis, the agency's head, said the delegation would use the conference to strengthen cooperation with the international community on environmental protection and climate change. *—PTI*

Seattle man accused of stabbing 5 held on $2M bail

SEATTLE, 10 NOV

A 37-year-old man accused of stabbing five people in Seattle on Friday made his first court appearance on Saturday, where a judge set bail at $2 million. The suspect is also linked to four additional stabbings from the previous day. "People who live in and travel to the Chinatown-International District deserve to feel safe and be safe," said King County Prosecuting Attorney Leesa Manion. The judge found probable cause to hold him on five counts of first-degree assault, citing his criminal history and an outstanding arrest warrant. According to court records, the man has nine felony convictions in Washington, including car thefts, possession of stolen property and robbery. *—PTI*

Sri Lanka's BRICS application not rejected: Ministry

COLOMBO, 10 NOV

Sri Lanka's bid to join BRICS has not ended and its application to join the grouping is still pending, the Foreign Ministry said on Sunday. It said that Sri Lanka had applied for membership and the foreign minister Vijitha Herath had written to his counterparts expressing Sri Lanka's interest to join BRICS. "Pending requests for membership from many countries, including Sri Lanka, will be considered by BRICS member countries in due course," the statement added. The statement came after local media reports said Sri Lanka's application to become a member in the BRICS has been rejected. Meanwhile, the statement also said Sri Lanka's intention to join the New Development Bank (NDB) was welcomed by the president of the NDB. *—PTI*

Trump snubs Pompeo, Haley from cabinet

Trump urges supporters to donate to Democrats amid 'financial strain' post elections

Mike Pompoe and Nikki Haley — PHOTO: PTI

WASHINGTON, 10 NOV

President-elect Donald Trump ruled out two of his previous Cabinet members - former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and former envoy to the United Nations Nikki Haley – to be part of his upcoming administration.

"I will not be inviting former Ambassador Nikki Haley, or former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, to join the Trump Administration, which is currently in formation," Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

Pompeo served as the CIA Director and Secretary of State in his first term, while Haley served as his ambassador to the United Nations in the first two years of his presidency. Both his cabinet-ranking officials later entered the presidential race against him in the Republican primaries.

While Pompeo dropped from the race early, Haley was the last challenger against Trump till February this year. Later on, the two endorsed his campaign. Haley announced her support for Trump during the Republican National Convention in Wisconsin in July this year.

Meanwhile, Trump urged his supporters to donate to Democrats to help them overcome the "financial strain" in the aftermath of the general elections.

"Kamala Harris's campaign ended with at least USD 20 million in debt, per two sources familiar. Harris raised over USD 1 billion and had USD 118 million in the bank as of Oct 16," said Christopher Cadelago, the California bureau chief of Politico.

According to figures available from the Federal Election Commission, the Harris campaign and its Super PACS raised USD 2.3 billion and spent USD 1.9 billion. *—PTI*

Donald Trump — PHOTO: PTI

Trump wins Arizona, sweeps 7 swing states

US President-elect Donald Trump has won the election in Arizona, defeating his Democratic rival Kamala Harris in all seven battleground states. The seven battleground states in this election cycle were Arizona, Nevada, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Georgia. The victory in Arizona took Trump's electoral college tally to 312 against 226 of Vice President Harris. Arizona holds 11 electoral college votes. The Republican Party has regained control of the Senate and is all set to retain a majority. *—PTI*

Iranian who plotted Trump's murder was to target Israelis

- Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi dismissed the US claim that Iran was involved in an assassination attempt on Trump, calling it 'fabricated'

WASHINGTON, 10 NOV

An Iranian national charged by the FBI for plotting assassination on president-elect Donald Trump was tasked by the Iranians to target Israeli tourists in Sri Lanka, the Department of Justice has alleged.

Farhad Shakeri, 51, of Iran was charged Friday in a criminal complaint in connection with their alleged involvement in a plot to murder a Trump. Shakeri is an Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) asset, remains at large and is believed to reside in Tehran, Iran.

"He was also tasked with targeting Israeli tourists in Sri Lanka," the Department of Justice said. According to documents filed in a federal court, Shakeri was asked by IRGC to target Israeli tourists in Sri Lanka and to plan a mass shooting event in October 2024.

Meanwhile, Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi dismissed the US claim that Iran was involved in an assassination attempt on Trump, calling it "fabricated."

"Now, with another election, a new scenario is fabricated with the same goal: as a killer does not exist in reality, scriptwriters are brought in to manufacture a third-rate comedy. Who can in their right mind believe that a supposed assassin SITS IN IRAN and talks online to the FBI?!" he said while referring to US Department of Justice's claims.

"Remember the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran right after our President's inauguration? Everyone knows who did it and why." *—PTI/ANI*

PHOTO: X@ALANDALUS384

Yemen soldier kills 2 Saudi troops, 1 injured

DUBAI, 10 NOV

A soldier for Yemen's exiled government opened fire on Saudi troops as they exercised in eastern Yemen, killing two of them and wounding another in a rare insider attack during the kingdom's nearly decadelong war there, officials said Saturday.

The assault in eastern Hadramawt province comes as a yearslong cease-fire between Saudi Arabia and Yemen's Houthi rebels largely has held despite the militants' ongoing attacks against shipping in the Red Sea corridor. While the Houthis did not claim the attack, at least one Houthi official praised it as being "the beginning and an indication of a harsh future awaiting the invaders."

Meanwhile, US warplanes carried out new strikes targeting Houthi positions that lasted into early Sunday morning, the American military said. The strikes come after the militants likely shot down yet-another American reconnaissance drone over the country.

Aidarous al-Zubaidi, the leader of Yemen's secessionist Southern Transitional Council, identified the soldier who carried out the attack as belonging to the First Military Region, which is based out of Seiyun.

Police in the area published pictures of the soldier, saying there was a 30-million-Yemeni-rial reward for information leading to the soldier's arrest. That's worth around $15,000 on the black market.

The Houthis meanwhile did not claim the attack either. However, Houthi official Hamid Rizq praised the attack in a message X, claiming it came from "the feeling of oppression". *—PTI*

Qatar halts Gaza talks, Hamas office at risk

DEIR AL-BALAH, 10 NOV

Qatar has suspended its key mediation efforts between Hamas and Israel, it said Saturday, after growing frustration with the lack of progress on a cease-fire deal for Gaza.

However, Qatar is highly likely to return to mediation efforts if both sides show "serious political willingness" to reach a deal, according to an official with Egypt, the other key mediator.

Qatar told Israel and Hamas it can't continue to mediate "as long as there is a refusal to negotiate a deal in good faith" and "as a consequence, the Hamas political office no longer serves its purpose" in Qatar, a diplomatic source briefed on the matter said. Qatar told Hamas it will have to leave if it isn't ready to engage in serious negotiation.

A US official said the Biden administration informed Qatar two weeks ago that the Hamas office's continued operation in Doha was no longer useful and the Hamas delegation should be expelled.

A senior official said that after Hamas rejected the last proposal for a cease-fire, Qatar accepted the advice and informed the Hamas delegation of the decision 10 days ago. *—PTI*

Smoke rises after an Israeli airstrike on Dahiyeh, in the southern suburb of Beirut — PHOTO: PTI

DEIR AL-BALAH, 10 NOV

Lebanon's Health Ministry says an Israeli airstrike has killed at least 20 people. It says the strike on Sunday occurred in the village of Aalmat, north of Beirut and far from the areas in the south and east of the country where the Hezbollah militant group has a major presence.

Palestinian hospital official says 17 killed in Israeli strike on northern Gaza

An Israeli strike early Sunday on a home sheltering displaced people in the northern Gaza Strip killed at least 17 people, according to the director of a nearby hospital that received the bodies.

The military said it targeted a site where militants were operating, without providing evidence. It said the details of the strike are under review.

Separately, Lebanon's Health Ministry says an Israeli airstrike on Sunday killed at least 20 people in the village of Aalmat -- north of Beirut and far from the areas in the south and east where the Hezbollah militant group has a major presence. *—PTI*

Drones hit Moscow amid UK casualty report

KYIV, 10 NOV

A massive drone strike rattled Moscow and its suburbs overnight into Sunday, injuring a woman and temporarily halting traffic at some of Russia's busiest airport, officials said.

A top UK defence official meanwhile said that Russian forces had suffered their worst month of casualties in October since their full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

The chief of the UK defence staff, Tony Radakin, told the BBC that Moscow's troops suffered an average of 1,500 dead and wounded "every single day," bringing their total losses in the war to 700,000.

Moscow Mayor Sergey Sobyanin said a total of 32 drones were shot down over the Russian capital's outskirts. Russia's aviation authority said flights were briefly grounded at major international airports. *—PTI*

Smog engulfs Punjab, leads to lockdown in Pak

Smog hangs in the air around Minar-i-Pakistan — PHOTO: PTI

LAHORE, 10 NOV

A thick blanket of smog continued to suffocate several cities in Pakistam's Punjab province on Saturday, spreading its toxic reach and severely disrupting transportation.

As Lahore remained the world's most polluted city, the dense haze showed no sign of easing, grounding train schedules, closing motorways, and forcing authorities to impose lockdown-like measures, the Express Tribune reported.

Multan, following Lahore, recorded an alarming AQI of 2135, with Peshawar, Islamabad, and other cities also reporting high pollution levels. The haze intensified as air movement slowed around Lahore to just 4 km per hour, while Multan's air moved at 6 km per hour, moving from north to south.

Authorities have responded to the situation with widespread closures and restrictions, shutting down parts of the motorway network for safety. The M-5 Motorway from Multan to Zahir Peer has been temporarily closed due to extremely reduced visibility.

Motorway officials have warned drivers to avoid unnecessary travel, particularly after dark, urging them to travel between 10 am and 6 pm when fog conditions are less severe. Drivers have been advised to use fog lights and maintain a safe distance from other vehicles to ensure safety, reported the Express Tribune. *—ANI*

AWAMI LEAGUE LEADER FILES PLAINT AGAINST B'DESH CHIEF ADVISER

DHAKA, 10 NOV

A complaint was filed against the Chief Adviser of Bangladesh interim government, Muhammad Yunus, and 61 others, under Article 15 of the Rome Statute at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in Netherlands.

Anwaruzzaman Chowdhury, an Awami League leader and former Mayor of Sylhet, filed the complaint.

Meanwhile, to counter the announced protests by Sheikh Hasina's Awami League, a huge number of protestors from various political parties and groups took to the streets of Dhaka on Sunday.

Bangladesh's interim government on Sunday said it will seek Interpol's assistance in repatriating deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from India, and other "fugitives", to face trial. *—ANI/PTI*

Hyderabadi loco pilot Indira raring to ply Riyadh Metro

RIYADH, 10 NOV

Hyderabad's Indira Egalapati, who is a loco pilot with the Riyadh Metro in Saudi Arabia — PHOTO: PTI

Hyderabad's Indira Eegalapati is among the few women loco pilots associated with the Riyadh Metro, currently running trial trains and raring to go as the rapid transit system nears completion.

"It is really a proud moment for me to be a part of this world-class and prestigious project, especially being an expatriate," 33-year-old Eegalapati, who has been employed as a train pilot and station operations master for five years, said.

She was working with the Hyderabad Metro when she came to know about the openings here and applied.

Eegalapati and two others from India joined in 2019 but soon Covid struck and they had to undergo the initial training virtually.

Currently, trial runs are going on and according to reports, the Riyadh Metro service is likely to become operational from early 2025.

"I come from a lower middle-class family and education was a nightmare. But our father ensured that we get our education. Being a girl, marriage was an important thing to our families but for our father, education came first," she said. Her husband also works here in the maintenance department. *—PTI*

DOWNING STREET DIWALI

UK Hindus object to non-veg, alcohol

LONDON, 10 NOV

Some British Hindus have taken to social media to voice their objections over a lack of proper consultation ahead of a Diwali reception hosted by Prime Minister Keir Stramer at 10 Downing Street in London, where reportedly non-vegetarian snacks and alcohol were included on the menu.

While community organisation Insight UK questioned the "appalling lack of understanding" of the spiritual aspect of the Hindu festival, others pointed out that greater dialogue is required ahead of such religious events.

"Diwali is not just a time for festivity, but also holds a deeply religious meaning. The sacred festival of Diwali emphasises purity and devotion and hence traditionally involves vegetarian meals and strict avoidance of alcohol," Insight UK stated in a post on X.

Diwali emphasises purity and devotion and hence traditionally involves vegetarian meals and strict avoidance of alcohol — PHOTO: PTI

"The choice of menu at the Diwali celebration hosted by the Prime Minister himself displays an appalling lack of understanding or respect for the religious traditions associated with the festival of Diwali. It also raises the pertinent question of whether Hindu community organisations and religious leaders were consulted for greater cultural sensitivity and inclusivity," it said.

The group urged "greater consideration" at future celebrations intended to promote multiculturalism and inclusivity, mindful of the "cultural and religious practices of the communities they seek to honour".

Government sources indicated that the reception was a cross-community gathering, which involved a wide range of representatives and also included Sikh celebrations of Bandi Chhor Divas. It brought together British Indian community leaders, professionals and parliamentarians and included Starmer lighting candles on the doorstep of 10 Downing Street, following in the footsteps of predecessor Sunak. *—PTI*

Fraud call filter saved Rs 2,500 cr public assets

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

The technical system deployed by the government is blocking 1.35 crore fraud calls daily and has helped save people's assets worth Rs 2,500 crore till date, said Union Minister for Communication Jyotiraditya Scindia.The minister said that most of the spam calls originate from servers outside the country, and the systems have been able to block majority of such fraudulent calls. "In terms of the number of marketing calls you get in your phone, the number of fraud calls that come in, we have put in place a full system to be able to tackle that. Our DoT fraud detection network has saved close to Rs 2,500 crore of people's assets today, as we speak, through Sanchar Sathi and Chakshu," Scindia said.—*PTI*

PHOTO: X

India's coal import up 7.8% in Apr-Sept

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

India's coal import rose by 7.8 per cent to 140.60 million tonne in the April-September period of the ongoing financial year. It was 130.34 MT in the year-ago period, shows data compiled by B2B e-commerce company mjunction services ltd. Overall, coal import demand is likely to remain modest due to the healthy stock position and high volumes being offered through spot e-auctions in the domestic market, mjunction MD and CEO Vinaya Varma said. Coal import in September dropped by 10.09 per cent to 19.42 MT from 21.60 MT in corresponding month of previous fiscal. Of the total imports in September, non-coking coal volume was 13.24 MT, against 14.88 MT in the year-ago month. —*PTI*

Infinx's delivery centre in Madurai to create 700 jobs

CHENNAI, 10 NOV

Infinx, which provides AI-driven solutions to healthcare providers, has set up a delivery centre in Madurai, which is expected to create around 700 jobs over the next five years. The Madurai centre would leverage advanced AI and automation technologies to streamline revenue cycle operations for its customers, the company, backed by global investment firms Norwest Venture Partners and KKR, said in a statement on Sunday.The company already has similar delivery centres in Mumbai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad. "By investing in advanced AI-driven solutions and leveraging the immense potential of the local workforce, we aim to deliver unparalleled value to our clients while contributing to the technological growth in the country," Infinx managing director Sudeep Tandon said.—*PTI*

India is growing market for gaming: Sony

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

India is emerging as a "good opportunity market" in the gaming business for the consumer electronic major Sony, said its India Managing Director Sunil Nayyar. The company has reported "phenomenal growth" in the gaming business in FY24, with the robust performance of PlayStation 5 and its software peripherals, he said. Sony India's PlayStation dominates the console operating gaming system market here with around 95 per cent market share and has almost doubled its revenue in FY 2023-24 from the segment. However, now, it expects a moderation in the growth rates because of the high base, Nayyar said. "Now, the base is very high because we almost achieved the double business last year. So this year, we intend to have modest growth," Nayyar said. —*PTI*

India becomes biggest exporter of fuel to EU

With no embargo, India exports Russian oil after importing crude

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

India's export of fuels such as diesel to the European Union (EU) jumped 58 per cent in the first three quarters of 2024. A major quantity of this comes from refining discounted Russian oil, said a monthly tracker report released by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).

The EU/G7 countries in December 2022 introduced a price cap and an embargo on the imports of Russian crude oil in a bid to cripple Kremlin's revenue and create a vacuum in its funding for the invasion of Ukraine.

However, the lack of a policy on refined oil produced from Russian crude meant that countries not imposing sanctions could import large volumes of Russian crude, refine them into oil products and legally export them to the price-cap coalition countries.

India has become the second biggest buyer of Russian crude oil since the invasion, with purchases rising from less than one per cent of the total oil imported in the pre-Ukraine war period to almost 40 per cent of the country's total oil purchases.

India has become the second biggest buyer of Russian crude oil since the invasion

PHOTO: PTI

The rise was primarily because Russian crude oil was available at a discount to other internationally traded oil due to the price cap and the European nations shunning purchases from Moscow. Fuel exports were, however, at full price.

"Capitalising on the refining loophole, India has now become the biggest exporter of oil products to the EU. In the first three quarters of 2024, exports to the EU from refineries in Jamnagar and Vadinar in Gujarat and Mangalore in Karnataka – which are increasingly reliant on Russian crude – witnessed a 58 per cent year-on-year rise," said the CREA report.

This, the report said, amplified "the fact that EU Member States' continued imports are expanding the refining loophole and Russian revenues from crude exports to third countries".

The Reliance Industries Ltd has oil refineries at Jamnagar while Russia's Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy has a unit at Vadinar.The Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd is a subsidiary of the state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation.

Europe imported an average of 1,54,000 barrels per day of diesel and jet fuel from India before Russia's invasion of Ukraine. This has now doubled. —*PTI*

Full service carriers shrink from 5 to 1 in 17 yrs in India

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

When Vistara folds up into the Air India Group on Monday, the number of full service carriers (FSCs) in the fast-growing Indian aviation space will come down to just one from five in a span of over 17 years.

Also, the merger will mark the sunset of another Indian airline jointly owned by an overseas carrier after the liberalisation of foreign direct investment norms. Post the merger, Vistara's 49 per cent owner Singapore Airlines will hold 25.1 per cent stake in Air India.

In 2012, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh-led UPA government allowed foreign airlines to buy up to 49 per cent in a domestic carrier, which later resulted in the now defunct Jet Airways securing 24 per cent stake from Gulf carrier Etihad besides the birth of AirAsia India and Vistara.

Vistara is also the only full-service carrier to start operations in the last 10 years.

From 12 November, the enlarged Air India will remain the country's lone full-service player

PHOTO: PTI

Since the merger of FSC Indian Airlines with Air India in 2007, at least five FSCs dotted the Indian skies.

As years passed by, Kingfisher and Air Sahara faded away, while Vistara took flight in January 2015. Kingfisher went belly up in 2012 while Air Sahara, which was acquired by Jet Airways and renamed as JetLite, sank with Jet Airways in 2019. From 12 November, the enlarged Air India will remain the country's lone full-service player.

Coming to Indian carriers with foreign ownership, the first was Jet Airways where Abu Dhabi's Etihad Airways lapped up 24 per cent stake. Then came AirAsia India – 49 per cent owned by Malaysia's AirAsia and the rest was with Tatas. It was followed by Vistara where Singapore Airlines holds 49 per cent stake and 51 per cent is with Tata Group. —*PTI*

Debt of Godrej Properties rises to Rs 7,572 cr

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

Realty firm Godrej Properties' net debt rose 2 per cent during the September quarter to Rs 7,572 crore with the company focusing on land acquisition for future growth.

Its net debt stood at Rs 7,432 crore at the end of the June quarter, according to an investors' presentation.

Godrej Properties is one of the leading developers in the country. It has a major presence in Delhi-NCR, Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Pune, and Bengaluru.

Godrej Properties plans to raise up to Rs 6,000 crore through the issue of securities. The board had last month approved the proposal.

The funds would be raised through the issuance of securities.

During the last fiscal year, the company's sales bookings jumped 84 per cent to a record Rs 22,527 crore, the highest among listed realty firms in 2023-24. —*PTI*

Value of 6 top-10 firms slips Rs 1.55L cr

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

The combined market valuation of six of the top-10 most-valued firms eroded Rs 1,55,721.12 crore last week, with Reliance Industries emerging as the biggest laggard, in line with an overall weak trend in equities.

Last week, the BSE benchmark declined 237.8 points, or 0.29 per cent.

While Reliance Industries, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, ITC, Hindustan Unilever and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) suffering erosion in their market valuation, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, Infosys, and the State Bank of India were the gainers.

The valuation of Reliance Industries fell Rs 74,563.37 crore to Rs 17,37,556.68 crore. Bharti Airtel's valuation dropped Rs 26,274.75 crore to Rs 8,94,024.60 crore. The market valuation of ICICI Bank slumped Rs 22,254.79 crore to Rs 8,88,432.06 crore and that of ITC tanked Rs 15,449.47 crore to Rs 5,98,213.49 crore.

LIC's market capitalisation (mcap) declined Rs 9,930.25 crore to Rs 5,78,579.16 crore and that of Hindustan Unilever went lower Rs 7,248.49 crore to Rs 5,89,160.01 crore.

However, the valuation of TCS jumped Rs 57,744.68 crore to Rs 14,99,697.28 crore. The mcap of Infosys soared Rs 28,838.95 crore to Rs 7,60,281.13 crore and that of State Bank of India climbed Rs 19,812.65 crore to Rs 7,52,568.58 crore. HDFC Bank added Rs 14,678.09 crore, taking its valuation to Rs 13,40,754.74 crore.

Reliance Industries is the country's most-valued firm, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Infosys, State Bank of India, ITC, Hindustan Unilever, and LIC. —*PTI*

Reliance Industries, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, ITC, Hindustan Unilever and LIC suffered erosion in their market valuation

PHOTO: PTI

Macroeconomic data, FIIs are key this week

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

A host of macroeconomic data announcements, the last batch of September quarter earnings, global trends and trading activity of foreign investors will be the major driving factors for the equity market this week, according to analysts.

Equity markets would remain closed on Friday for Guru Nanak Jayanti.

"India is set to release CPI and IIP data on November 12, with WPI data expected on November 14. Globally, the US inflation report on November 13 will be critical, as it may influence the Federal Reserve's upcoming policy stance," said Santosh Meena, head of research at Swastika Investmart Ltd.

With major global events and Q2 earnings (of blue-chip companies) behind, the market focus will shift to key macroeconomic data and the last round of results, Meena said.

The Bank of India, BEML, Hindalco Industries, ONGC, Apollo Tyres and Brainbees Solutions – the parent firm of online e-commerce platform FirstCry – among others will announce their quarterly earnings this week.

"The performance of US bond yields and the dollar index will be pivotal for emerging markets like India, as both have surged since the US election outcome. Given this backdrop, FIIs (foreign institutional investors) activity will remain a crucial driver for the Indian equity market in the near term," Meena added.

Last week, the BSE benchmark declined 237.8 points and the Nifty went lower by 156.15 points, or 0.64 per cent. —*PTI*

5 TRADING SESSIONS

The FPI selling trend is likely to continue in the near term till data indicate the possibility of a trend reversal

PHOTO: PTI

FPIs transfer Rs 20,00 cr from India to China

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

The exodus of foreign investments from Indian equity markets continued unabated, with FPIs pulling out nearly Rs 20,000 crore in the last five trading sessions on higher valuations of domestic stocks and shifting their allocation to China.

As a result, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have turned net sellers in the equity market, with total outflows reaching Rs 13,401 crore for 2024 so far.

Going ahead, the FPI selling trend is likely to continue in the near term till data indicate the possibility of a trend reversal.

If the Q3 results and leading indicators reflect a recovery in earnings, the scenario can change with FPIs reducing selling and even turning buyers. Investors will have to wait and watch for the data, VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said.

With the newly elected US president not assuming office until January 2025, the Indian market's near-term direction will be more influenced by domestic factors like the Maharashtra assembly election results, corporate earnings commentaries, and retail investor behaviour in response to the October and early November downturn, Sunil Damania, Chief Investment Officer, MojoPMS, said.

According to the data, FPIs recorded a net outflow of Rs 19,994 crore so far this month, comprising five trading sessions from 4–8 November. This followed a net withdrawal of Rs 94,017 crore in October, the worst monthly outflow. Before this, FPIs withdrew Rs 61,973 crore from equities in March 2020.

In September 2024, foreign investors made a nine-month high investment of Rs 57,724 crore.

Since June, FPIs have consistently bought equities after withdrawing Rs 34,252 crore in April-May. Overall, FPIs have been net buyers in 2024, except for January, April, May and October, data with the depositories showed.

While the immediate uncertainty over the US Presidential election and interest rates in the US has been addressed, several drivers of the foreign flows into the Indian equity markets continue to remain unfavourable. —*PTI*

Sebi likely to expand scope of UPSI norms

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

To enhance transparency in market disclosures, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) is looking to broaden the scope of Unpublished Price-Sensitive Information (UPSI) by including proposed fundraising activities, restructuring plans, and one-time bank settlements.

In its consultation paper, Sebi has proposed that only agreements, including shareholder, joint venture and family settlement, that affect the management and control of the firm and are known to the firm should be considered price-sensitive and included in the illustrative list of events under the definition of UPSI.

Additionally, key developments in corporate insolvency proceedings, such as initiation or approval of resolution plans by the tribunal, should be disclosed as potentially price-sensitive.

If a forensic audit is launched or concluded for issues like fund misappropriation or financial misstatements, it should be disclosed as price-sensitive.

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

The proposed changes to Sebi's definition of UPSI are aimed at increasing regulatory clarity and consistency.

In the constitution paper, Sebi suggested including fundraising proposed to be undertaken in the definition of UPSI.

The regulator has proposed the inclusion of restructuring plans, one-time bank settlements and other significant financial restructurings as UPSI.

Sebi has proposed that actions by regulatory or judicial bodies against a company or its key personnel if involving significant enforcement, fines, penalties, or other sanctions, should be considered price-sensitive and classified as UPSI. —*PTI*

DELHI-OTTAWA TENSIONS

SBI says it's business as usual in Canada

MUMBAI, 10 NOV

State Bank of India (SBI) has not seen any impact in Canada despite the ongoing tensions between New Delhi and Ottawa, a top bank official has said.

The Indian government-run lender, which has been present in Canada since 1982, is considered as a "local bank" by all stakeholders in the North American country, its chairman CS Setty said.

SBI operates eight branches through a wholly owned subsidiary in Canada, including in Toronto, Brampton, and Vancouver.

"I think we are considered as one of the local banks there -- our engagement in business, banking business is with the local environment there," he said.

India-Canada relationship has been frosty for over a year now, ever since the North American country accused India of plotting assassinations of its citizens and the relationship hit a new low last month with the expulsion of diplomats.

SBI, which has been present in Canada since 1982, is considered as a 'local bank' by all stakeholders in the North American country

PHOTO: PTI

- SBI Chairman CS Setty said the bank will focus on expanding its core interest income through efforts, including pushing yields on advances by having the right product mix

Meanwhile, Setty said the bank will focus on expanding its core interest income through efforts, including pushing yields on advances by having the right product mix.

It will also look to extract more from the same customer in its core income expanding efforts, Setty said.

"I want to assure everyone that our efforts to increase the core income are multifold and we are working on all directions," the chairman said.

Elaborating on the announcement on having dedicated accounts for women and senior citizens, Setty said such a move may involve some initiatives that will enhance their wellness.

—*PTI*

End of an era as Man City loses fourth straight game

Guardiola has never had it this bad in his managerial career

MANCHESTER, 10 NOV

Manchester City has never had it this bad under Pep Guardiola. Guardiola has never had it this bad in his managerial career.

A sense of crisis is looming over the champions of England after they lost a fourth straight game in all competitions, 2-1 at Brighton, and slipped five points behind Liverpool in the Premier League on Saturday. Liverpool beat Aston Villa 2-0 thanks to goals by Darwin Nunez and Mohamed Salah.

Second-placed City hasn't lost four games in a row since 2006 two years before the Abu Dhabi takeover of the club and 10 years before Guardiola's game-changing arrival on the blue side of Manchester.

As for Guardiola, widely regarded as the world's best coach, he has never lost four straight matches anywhere in his illustrious time in management that began in 2007.

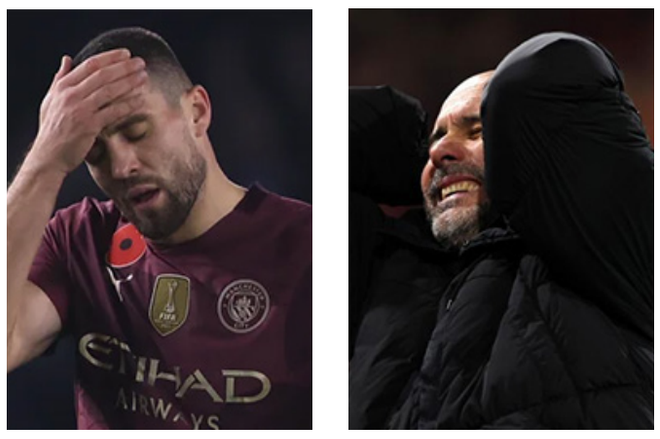
The closest he has come was in the 2014-15 season when, at Bayern Munich, his team lost in a penalty shootout in the German Cup followed by three straight defeats two in the Bundesliga, when Bayern had already clinched the title, and once in the Champions League.

So, Guardiola was asked, is this the end of the era, after leading City to an unprecedented four straight top-flight league titles?

"It's what the people want, right?" he posed. "That's normal we won a lot. I would just like to have all the squad (available)."

That won't be happening anytime soon considering star center midfielder Rodri, this year's Ballon d'Or winner, is out for the season with an ACL injury. Guardiola also had his best four center backs Ruben Dias, John Stones, Manuel Akanji, and Nathan Ake unavailable, while playmaker Kevin De Bruyne is not sharp or fit enough on his return from injury.

"When we play bad, I am the first to say, Oh, oh, I don't like it.' But I don't have that feeling," Guardiola said. —*PTI*



Mateo Kovacic of Manchester City Pep Guardiola ***PHOTO: X/ @MANCITY***

Milan held to a 3-3 draw

AC Milan had to settle for a 3-3 draw at Cagliari after Leao's first-half brace was matched by Zappa's double for the host after the break in a Serie A thriller on Saturday.The high-paced match saw numerous chances from both sides, with Milan registering 16 shots and Cagliari 13, as the two teams had clear opportunities to add even more goals. The result leaves Milan in 7th place with 18 points, seven adrift of leader Napoli. is 16th with 10.Nadir sparked celebrations from the home fans after 65 seconds by volleying the ball into the net after a corner to give Cagliari the lead. —*AP*

WOMEN'S ACT HOCKEY

India looks to defend title on home soil

RAJGIR, 10 NOV

Having struggled to win matches the entire year, the Indian women's hockey team will look to start afresh in a new Olympic cycle by defending its Asian Champions Trophy (ACT) title at home, beginning with a clash against lower-ranked Malaysia here on Monday.

India has won the title twice in 2016 (Singapore) and 2023 (Ranchi) in the seven editions of the tournament so far.

After failing to qualify for the Paris Olympics, the Indian team lost 13 matches and won just two (with one draw) out of 16 in the women's FIH Pro League this year, but will hope to make a turnaround in their fortune with a strong performance in the ACT.

India has fielded a mixed team, consisting of youth and experienced players for the tournament under the leadership of Salima Tete. Striker Navneet Kaur will serve as Salima's deputy as India enters the competition with high expectations.

The team will face stiff competition from five other nations, including reigning Olympic silver-medallists China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, and Thailand, in the battle for continental supremacy.

The Indian defence will be anchored by a solid line-up, featuring Udita, Jyoti, Ishika Chaudhary, Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam, and Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke.

In the mid-field, captain Tete will be supported by Neha, Sharmila Devi, Manisha Chauhan, Sunelita Toppo, and Lalremsiami, all known for their dynamic play.

The forward line-up has the likes of Navneet Kaur, Sangita Kumari, Deepika, Preeti Dubey, and Beauty Dungdung leading the charge.

The goalkeeping duties will be shared between the experienced Savita also former captain and rising talent Bichu Devi Kharibam.

As per the revised schedule, the first match of the day will start at 12.15 pm, followed by the second at 2.30 pm, and the last at 4.45 pm.

Previously, the matches were slated for evening slots at 3 pm, 5.15 pm and 7.30 pm. —*PTI*

India has won the title twice in 2016 (Singapore) and 2023 (Ranchi) in the seven editions of the tournament so far ***PHOTO: PTI***

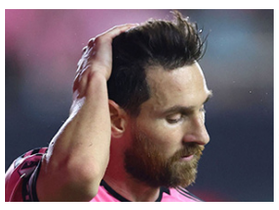


PHOTO: X

Messi and Inter Miami eliminated from major league

DUBAI, 10 NOV

Lionel Messi's goal of winning the MLS Cup title came to an abrupt end on Saturday with his Inter Miami suffering a shock first-round elimination from the playoffs after a 3-2 home defeat to Atlanta United. Miami had won the regular season campaign with a record points total but after losing twice in the best-of-three series, the MLS Cup favourites and their eight-times Ballon d'Or winner are out. All the accolades Miami received for their regular season 'Supporters' Shield' triumph count for little after an Atlanta team that finished ninth in the Eastern Conference pulled off a stunning upset.—***PTI***

Standard of referees improving, says Kettle

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

Poor refereeing in the Indian Super League (ISL) has long been a source of frustration for many coaches, but the national federation's top officer Trevor Kettle on Sunday claimed that the standard of referees in the country is "improving in many competencies". Several coaches of ISL clubs, mostly foreign, have in the past talked about the poor standard of refereeing in the top-tier league and even the All India Football Federation's (AIFF) President Kalyan Chaubey had expressed concerns on the matter a few months back.—***PTI***

McSweeney to open, Inglis maiden Test call

SYDNEY, 10 NOV

Uncapped Nathan McSweeney won the race to open the batting alongside Usman Khawaja in the first Test against India while Australia also handed a maiden Test call-up to Josh Inglis on Sunday. These two are the new faces in an otherwise expected 13-member squad announced by Cricket Australia just for the series opener starting in Perth on 22 November.The South Australian had emerged as a strong contender for the opener's spot, earning backing from the likes of David Warner and Ricky Ponting. He has been picked ahead of specialist openers Marcus Harris, Cameron Bancroft, and Sam Konstas for the spot.—***PTI***

Gauff beat the world´s top two players - Aryna Sabalenka and Iga Swiatek on her run to the final at the season-ending event in Riyadh ***PHOTO: X***

Coco Gauff wins WTA Finals for the first time

RIYADH, 10 NOV

Coco Gauff won the WTA Finals for the first time by rallying to beat Olympic champion Zheng Qinwen 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (2) in the final.

The 20-year-old American came from 2-0 and 5-3 down in the final set and was two points from defeat at one stage.

Yet she took the set to a tiebreaker and won the first six points. Zheng threatened a comeback but Gauff took the victory off her third match point with a forehand winner as she came into the net.

She is the first American to win the Finals since Serena Williams in 2014 and received $4.8 million in prize money. She also is the youngest player to win it since Maria Sharapova in 2004, the year Gauff was born.

Gauff beat the world's top two players Aryna Sabalenka and Iga Swiatek on her run to the final at the season-ending event in Riyadh.

She felt vindicated after that and appeared to take a swipe at observers who wrote her off.

"I just love to say I'm right. Specifically today, I got comments about how I was going to lose badly, so I was just like, 'OK, we'll see,'" Gauff explained. "It's honestly just liking the idea of just proving people wrong and, and letting your racket do the talking. And so, yeah, I use it as motivation." —*PTI*

Mark ends cycling career in style with Singapore win

SINGAPORE, 10 NOV

Mark Cavendish, one of the best road sprinters in cycling history, retired in style on Sunday by winning the Tour de France Criterium in Singapore.

The 39-year-old from the Isle of Man broke famed Belgian cyclist Eddy Merckx's long-standing record for most career Tour de France stage wins with his 35th victory in July.

Fittingly, for his final race, Cavendish wore No. 35 on his race jersey and won in a dash to the line for the 165th victory overall in his career. "I'm quite emotional actually," Cavendish said. "I realized in the last 5 laps that it was the last 15 kilometers (9 miles) of my career." He finished just ahead of Belgian riders Jasper Philipsen and Arnaud De Lie. —*PTI*

3-GAME ODI SERIES

Pak beats Australia by 8 wickets

PERTH, 10 NOV

Pakistan achieved its first win over Australia in a 50-overs series in Australia since 2002 when it won the deciding third one-day international Sunday by eight wickets.

Australia's under-strength batting lineup folded in the face of hostile bowling from Pakistan's pace attack and was all out for 140 in 31.5 overs.

The home team was without captain Pat Cummins, Steven Smith, Josh Hazlewood, Mitchell Starc, and Marnus Labuschagne, all of whom were rested to prepare for the first of five tests against India that begins in Perth. Nov. 22.

Saim Ayub (42) and Abdullah Shafique (37) then gave Pakistan's chase a solid foundation in an 84-run opening partnership before both fell in the same over, bowled by Lance Morris.

That left Babar Azam and captain Mohammad Rizwan to steer Pakistan to an important victory.

The Pakistan team pose with their trophy after winning their one day international cricket match in Perth, Australia, Sunday ***PHOTO: PTI***

Pakistan 143 for 2 (Ayub 42, Shafique 37, Morris 2-24) beat Australia 140 (Abbott 30, Afridi 3-32, Naseem 3-54, Rauf 2-24) by eight wickets. —*PTI*

GM ARAVINDH INFLICTS FIRST DEFEAT

CHENNAI, 10 NOV

Grandmaster M Aravindh Chithambaram ended the unbeaten run of table topper Arjun Erigaisi to throw open the Chennai Grand Masters title race as Vidit Gujrathi eked out a draw against Levon Aronian in the sixth round here on Sunday.

Arjun and Aronian are now in joint lead with four points each with Aravindh, with his first win of the competition, and GM Amin Tabatabaei half a point behind.

With a rating average of 2729, the Masters presents a more competitive field this time around. —*PTI*

Pak confirms India not travelling for CT

SINGAPORE, 10 NOV

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) confirmed on Sunday that India had informed the International Cricket Council about its unwillingness to travel to Pakistan for the ICC Champions Trophy, scheduled in February-March next year. "The PCB has received an e-mail from the ICC, stating that the BCCI has informed them that their team will not travel to Pakistan for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025," PCB said in a statement.

"The PCB has forwarded that e-mail to the Government of Pakistan for their advice and guidance," said a PCB spokesperson.

PCB made no further comments on the ICC e-mail but its chairman, Mohsin Naqvi had said on Friday that Pakistan would unveil its policy when they get something in writing from the ICC.

The BCCI had earlier intimated to the global cricket body about India's inability to travel to the neighboring nation, leaving the PCB with no option but to organize the Champions Trophy in the 'Hybrid Model'.

Naqvi had also said that the 'Hybrid Model' was unacceptable to Pakistan.

India has not sent its cricket team to Pakistan since 2008 when they last came for the Asia Cup under Mahendra Singh Dhoni's captaincy. Pakistan toured India for a bilateral white-ball series in 2012-13, the T20 World Cup in 2016 and the 50-over World Cup last year.

As reported earlier, India will play all its matches in Dubai and the high-profile India vs Pakistan tie will also be held in the UAE.

"This is an ICC event and BCCI has informed the global body that it won't travel to Pakistan. —*PTI*

Palak-Amit pair strikes air pistol mixed team gold

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

The air pistol mixed team of Palak Gulia and Amit Sharma struck gold with a commanding performance against their compatriots as India won five medals, including three silver, on day 2 of the World University Shooting Championship here on Sunday.

The duo of Palak and Amit defeated the pair of Sainyam and Samrat Rana 16-12 as India grabbed the top two podium spots in the event at the Karni Singh Range. The Hungarian pair of Sara Rahel Fabian and Redecsi Mate took the bronze defeating Chinese-Taipei 16-12.

Earlier, in the qualification round, Sainyam (289) and Samrat (290) had emerged toppers with an aggregate score of 579, while Palak (285) and Amit (293) were placed second with a combined score of 578.

In women's trap, Neeru and Kirti Gupta clinched silver and bronze respectively shooting 43 and 32 respectively in the final. Zina Hrdlickova won the gold with a score of 45. Kirti had earlier topped the qualification round with a superb 118 out of 125, while Neeru entered the six-shooter final with a score of 115.

Olympian and winner of three gold medals at the 2021 World University Games in China, Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar added another silver to India's tally in 50m rifle 3-positions with a score of 458.2 in the final. —*PTI*

Palak Gulia and Amit Sharma ***PHOTO: PTI***

WC 2026 AND OLYMPICS 2028

ACT will serve as a base for future: Harendra

RAJGIR, 10 NOV

Indian women's hockey team has overcome recent setbacks and is set to start a new journey with the World Cup and Olympics in mind, chief coach Harendra Singh asserted on Sunday, saying that the performance in the Asian Champions Trophy will serve as a base for future.

Coach Harendra said his team has worked hard to shrug off the lean run and is preparing for a good show at the 2026 World Cup in the Netherlands and the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

"We have overcome all the setbacks and worked on our mistakes. Everyone realized their role and knew their role and understood that. ACT is one of the biggest platforms for the girls to showcase their skill and excel and show that the team is on the right path."

Harendra reiterated that fitness is an area that impacted the women's team adversely.

"Whatever has happened in the Pro League is a past, we can't keep crying on that. Yes, we know we lost 13 games but there are reasons behind it.

The reasons are not technical, but tactical, it's about fitness and that's why I took them to Indian Naval Academy.

"I am looking at the results, I am looking at the progress they are making day after day," he said.

Harendra said together with fitness, the mental aspect of the game is also very important.

"Modern hockey doesn't compromise on fitness, if you slightly stray you are going to pay the price. Once you are fit you are mentally strong because you know if you lose the ball you know you have the gas to regain the ball," he said. "I am not willing to look at the past, that is history for me. Always live in the present and the present is that we have the Asian Champions Trophy to defend which can get the entire country out of that setback."

"Deepika and Manisha Chauhan I am working on their dragflicks and I am confident about them. I am confident they will deliver."

The coach said he his pinning his eyes on young drag flickers Deepika and Manisha Chauhan to deliver the goods in the tournament. —*PTI*

Coach Harendra

China's Li re-elected as World Sailing President

SINGAPORE, 10 NOV

Li Quanhai was re-elected as president of World Sailing for a new four-year term at the organization's Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday, continuing as the only Chinese president of an Olympic International Sports Federation.

"Re-election is not only an honor but also a heavy responsibility. Over the past few years, we have witnessed the vigorous growth and widespread popularity of sailing around the globe," said Li after the election. "From the passionate Olympic arenas to the tranquil coastal towns, sailing, with its unique charm, connects people from different countries and cultures, conveying the spirit of peace, friendship, and cooperation. "Facing a future full of challenges and opportunities, the development of sailing requires continuous innovation to enhance the professionalism and appeal of the events, attract more young people's participation, and make sailing a bridge to the future," Li added.

Li received 55 votes, Rodion Luka (UKR) received two votes and Philippe Rogge (BEL) received 29 votes in the first and only round of voting. —*PTI*

Li Quanhai